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Christopher to visit Mideast next week
WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit Israel and other countries in the Middle East next week, a State Department official said Monday. Mr. Christopher's itinerary will include at least Israel, Egypt and Jordan, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity. It will be the first personal contact by a member of President Bill Clinton's administration and the team of new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. After the Middle East secretary of state will travel to Lyon, France, to participate in the annual summit of the Group of Seven nations (Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and the United States).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي

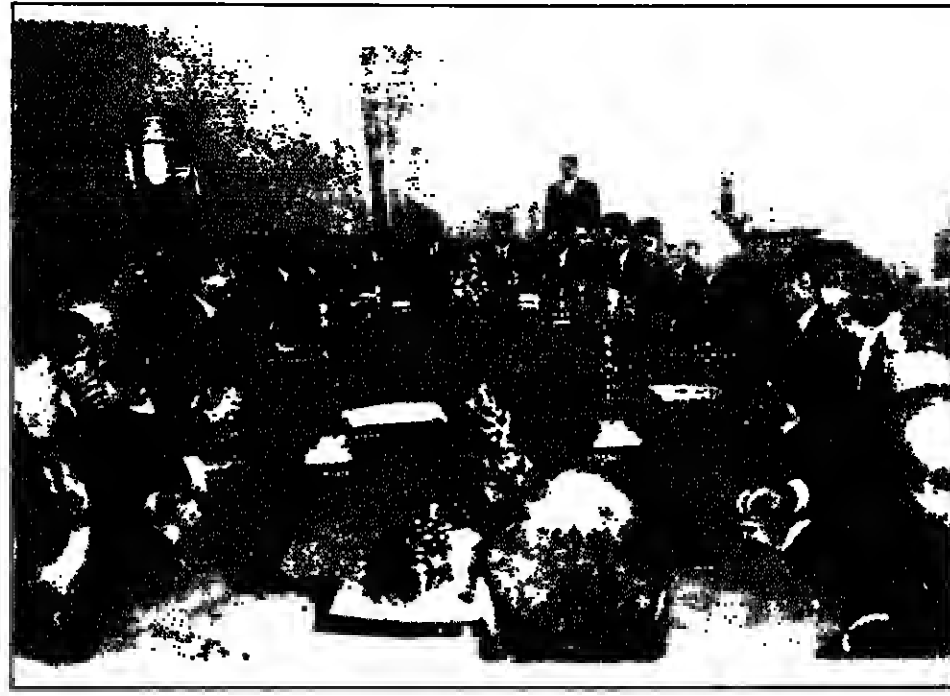
League financial problems unresolved
CAIRO (AP) — Arab diplomats failed Monday to resolve a financial crisis that threatens to undermine the Arab League at a time of calls for unity against Israel's new right-wing government. Permanent representatives of the league's 22 members met for four hours but could not agree on ways to reduce the \$80 million in membership arrears and accumulated debt. They instead directed the secretariat to develop more proposals for discussion. The inability to deal with the problem — which has forced the Arab League to freeze salaries, pay some workers late and consider closing offices — bodes poorly for efforts to increase cooperation in the Arab World.

Arafat arrives in Beijing
BEIJING (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat arrived in Beijing Monday for a three-day official visit to China. Mr. Arafat, on his tenth visit to China and first since September 1993, is scheduled to meet President Jiang Zemin Tuesday. They are likely to discuss the fate of the Middle East peace process following the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister. China, which has long backed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), forged diplomatic ties with Israel in January 1992. During a brief stopover in Dhaka earlier Monday, Mr. Arafat said the election of Mr. Netanyahu would not derail the peace process.

King returns, describes result of U.S. visit as highly positive HM chairs Cabinet meeting at airport on Washington talks, summit preparations Kabariti leaves today for UAE, Bahrain

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Monday evening and immediately briefed the Council of Ministers on the outcome of his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton and discussed preparations for next week's Arab summit in Cairo.



His Majesty King Hussein chairs a Cabinet meeting at the airport on Monday immediately after his return home (Petra photo)

The King, who returned home with Her Majesty Queen Noor, chaired a Cabinet session at the airport, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. He quoted the King as telling the Cabinet that the outcome of his visits to the United Kingdom and the United States was very positive and fruitful and that he felt that Jordan's stand was deeply appreciated, especially vis-a-vis its efforts for peace and its commitment to democracy and human rights.

He also said the U.S. administration had reaffirmed Washington's commitment to and support for the Middle East peace process.

King Hussein briefed the ministers on Jordan's stand with regard to the June 21-23 Arab summit in Cairo, and stressed that the Kingdom had always been for any "Arab meeting designed to unite Arab stands to safeguard the Arab Nation's rights and secure the nation's future generations."

He said that Jordan's participation in the Cairo summit was an embodiment of the Kingdom's "principled stands since such meeting will open the way for the Arab leaders to hold frank discussions, end their differences, enhance Arab solidarity and protect their interests."

Turks blamed for Nicosia murder
NICOSIA (R) — Convicts testified at a murder inquest in Cyprus on Monday that Turkish secret agents recruited Greek Cypriots to kill an outspoken critic of Turkish action against Kurds two years ago. The testimony came during a court hearing into the murder of Kurd sympathiser Theofilos Georgiades outside his Nicosia home by an unknown gunman in March 1994. The three witnesses — all Greek Cypriots — claimed Turkish officials hired a convict to orchestrate Georgiades' killing, and had also planned to kill a politician, journalist, and a "president" of a coup that lasted eight days in Nicosia.

Turks play down tension with Syria
ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey underplayed Monday tensions with Syria despite the two countries moving troops in the area of their common border, and denied it had plans for an incursion into its southern neighbour.

Foreign ministry spokesman Nurettin Nurkan ruled out a Turkish military operation inside Syria against rebel Turkish Kurds whom Ankara says are receiving support from Damascus.

"There are no plans for an incursion (into Syria)," Mr. Nurkan said. "Turkey constitutes no threat to its neighbours."

Yemen seeks aid over flood damage
SANAA (R) — Yemen, suffering from floods which official sources say have killed more than 65 people and were the worst to have hit the impoverished Arab state, on Monday appealed to the international community for aid. Yemeni Agriculture Minister Ahmad Saleh Al Jabali told a news conference: "We are asking for support and help from our brothers and friends to alleviate the damages from the country's recent floods."

Official sources on Sunday said more than 65 people were believed killed, dozens missing and hundreds made homeless in the floods that also caused widespread damage to homes and farms in the eastern provinces of Hadramout, Marib and Shabwa.

Yeltsin, Zyuganov face runoff, woo Lebed
MOSCOW (AP) — Facing a crucial runoff election, Boris Yeltsin and his communist opponent Monday fought for the support of a tough, former general whose backing could decide who will be the next president of Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin met in the Kremlin with Alexander Lebed, who finished a strong third in Sunday's first round, to discuss joining forces in the runoff. Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov planned to offer Mr. Lebed the top job in a future government, hinting the ex-general would suffer if he did not accept.

Bread prices could be raised but with protection for low-income groups
By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Supply Munir Sobar confirmed that a committee, specially appointed by the Cabinet, is discussing the lifting of government's subsidy on bread.

If the committee will decide to implement the new policy, bread prices, currently set at 85 fils per kilogramme, "are expected to increase by 200 per cent," Mr. Sobar told the Jordan Times.

According to the Ministry of Supply, the committee in charge of studying the lifting of subsidies on bread has been at work for the past two weeks and will issue a recommendation to the Cabinet "in the next two months."

Jordan and Canada say Cairo summit should not produce camps for and against peace
Crown Prince, visiting Ottawa, holds talks with Canadian premier and addresses conferences

From Ayman Al Safadi in Ottawa

JORDAN AND Canada stressed Monday that next week's Arab summit in Cairo should not adopt any decisions that would push Israel into a siege mentality that could negatively affect the Middle East peace process.

During a meeting between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien in the Canadian capital, the two sides also warned that the summit should not result in the creation of pro-peace and anti-peace regional axes, a Royal Court source accompanying Prince Hassan on his three-day official visit to Canada said.

Netanyahu clinches Knesset majority, finalises cabinet
TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu clinched a majority in Israel's parliament on Monday, building a coalition of right-wing and religious parties to carry out his hardline "peace with security" programme.

But the agreement came too late for Mr. Netanyahu, 46, to present his new government at Monday's inaugural session of the Knesset or parliament elected on May 29.

Officials said the right-wing leader was also still engaged in negotiations on final cabinet appointments, notably concerning senior Likud members, and that the presentation of his government would not take place until Tuesday. In the May 29 polls, Mr. Netanyahu won a narrow upset victory over Labour incumbent Shimon Peres in Israel's first direct election for prime minister, but his Likud Party won only 32 seats in the 120-member Knesset, compared to 34 for Labour.

The results set off 19 days of intense political horse-trading and Mr. Netanyahu only ensured his majority Monday when a new movement representing Russian-speaking immigrants and an ultra-orthodox Jewish party agreed to join the coalition.

Likud policy statement closes 'circle of peace' — Palestinians
GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leaders reacted angrily Monday to headline policy guidelines for the new Israeli government of Benjamin Netanyahu, saying calls for expanding Jewish settlements and barring a Palestinian state will move both sides towards renewed confrontation.

"It means a widening of the political and popular confrontation," he said. He was referring to policy guidelines submitted by Mr. Netanyahu in advance of the presentation of his new government to the Knesset, Israel's parliament. The guidelines appear to have strengthened Palestinian fears that the Netanyahu government will move away from the Israeli government's commitment to expansion of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

They speak of "the eternal and indisputable right" of the Jewish people to "Eretz Yisrael" which include the West Bank area.

The guidelines make no mention of the 1993 Oslo agreement that launched Palestinian self-rule or of U.N. resolutions calling for a trade of land for peace, and said Israel would oppose the idea that Palestinian refugees have a "right of return" to the West Bank. "We know we will face big obstacles with this government if they continue this way," said Dalal

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The source said that Prince Hassan and the Canadian prime minister discussed the progress of the peace process in general and bilateral relations as well as the refugee problem.

Prince Hassan stressed the need for articulating a comprehensive security structure that will incorporate the human and economic dimensions of the refugee problem. Canada chairs the committee on refugees in the multilateral phase of the peace negotiations.

Prince Hassan, who reiterated Jordan's commitment to comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace, said in a later meeting with the Canadian parliament's standing committee on foreign relations and international trade that the concern which some parties to the peace process expressed after the return of a Likud government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu to power in Israel was "not entirely justified."

The Crown Prince said that significant change has occurred since Jordan and Israel signed their peace treaty in 1994, and that "we would like to feel that we and Israel are moving towards peace building."

Prince Hassan expressed hope that the Group of 7 will approach the problems of the Middle East in a comprehensive manner that will address the economic, social and human problems facing the region.

He said such a comprehensive approach should be applied in dealing with the refugee problem, which Jordan has dealt with through "integration and not assimilation."

The Crown Prince, who reiterated support for the Palestinians, said in response to a question by a member of the committee that a Palestinian state can only emerge on Palestinian land.

The Crown Prince earlier stressed that the problem of refugees was multi-dimensional and efforts to address the human and economic aspects of it must not await a political solution to the issue without prejudice to

(Continued on page 7)

Netanyahu clinches Knesset majority, finalises cabinet

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu clinched a majority in Israel's parliament on Monday, building a coalition of right-wing and religious parties to carry out his hardline "peace with security" programme.

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Officials said the right-wing leader was also still engaged in negotiations on final cabinet appointments, notably concerning senior Likud members, and that the presentation of his government would not take place until Tuesday. In the May 29 polls, Mr. Netanyahu won a narrow upset victory over Labour incumbent Shimon Peres in Israel's first direct election for prime minister, but his Likud Party won only 32 seats in the 120-member Knesset, compared to 34 for Labour.

The results set off 19 days of intense political horse-trading and Mr. Netanyahu only ensured his majority Monday when a new movement representing Russian-speaking immigrants and an ultra-orthodox Jewish party agreed to join the coalition.

"We're in," Watan Sharransky, a former Soviet Jewish dissident, told reporters as he entered Parliament.

Israel Television said Likud had also sealed a pact with a fifth coalition partner, United Torah Judaism, raising its majority to 66-54.

The appointment of former defence minister Ariel Sharon as housing minister was the only one to be confirmed before the session.

(Continued on page 7)

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In any case, the government promised that the lifting will not affect the poorest fragments of Jordanian society.

"There is not any decision, yet," the minister told the Jordan Times, "but we are going to make sure that subsidies for the poor will be maintained."

The government explained the new measures with the fact that the last shipment of wheat was purchased at a price of \$245 per tonne, with an increase of 175 per cent compared to the prices previously paid, which used to float around \$140 per tonne.

Lifting the state subsidy on bread, is one of the measures envisaged by the government to contain over expenditures and reduce the budget deficit.

Jordan's insignificant local production of wheat and the huge consumption of flour and bread in the country, (over 400,000 tonnes of flour per year), put a very heavy burden on the government, which retains the monopoly for importing wheat.

According to media reports, government subsidies for the current fiscal year are expected to reach up to JD190 million, exceeding by five-fold the JD38 million allocated by the state budget for subsidies.

Furthermore, since 1994, the price of wheat on the international market has grown four-fold, price of bread in Jordan has not increased, requiring an additional effort from the government's side to maintain the subsidies.

The National Society for Consumer Protection (NSCP), though understanding the government's difficulties in maintaining subsidies on bread for the whole population, stressed

that any decision by the government not contemplating subsidies for the poor would not be "acceptable."

"As a consumer protection society, we will take a firm stand in favour of keeping subsidies on bread for the poor, especially in this highly critical economic phase which the country is going through," Abdul Fattah Keilani, treasurer at the NSCP, said.

(Continued on page 7)

Lawyers in Jordan — big question where supply exceeds by far market demand

By Casey Stephens
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Last year the Amman law office of Al Juneidi received about 25 applications from law graduates to train at the office. Only one space was available.

These odds are not uncommon for law school graduates in Jordan looking to complete the training they need to practise law in the Kingdom. With a rising number of law students graduating from Jordan's 12 law schools, it is becoming increasingly difficult for graduates to find an established lawyer to provide them with their one to two years of required on-the-job training. The ones who do get trained are finding it difficult to compete with the 3,500 and plus other lawyers in Jordan.

"This exceeds the need of the country several times," said Abdul Karim Pharoan, an attorney practising in Amman for 15 years.

The problem is multifac-

eted and becomes an item of discussion during every election for the Jordan Bar Association (JBA) council, but solutions are difficult to come by.

The biggest problem, according to Mazen Rosheidat, general secretary of the JBA, is the sheer number of graduates in law not only from Jordan but also from other Arab and foreign countries.

"The students didn't ask the bar before they started to study law if the bar needs this many students," Mr. Rosheidat said.

The problem compounded for graduates to find an established lawyer to provide them with their one to two years of required on-the-job training. The ones who do get trained are finding it difficult to compete with the 3,500 and plus other lawyers in Jordan.

"You can't tell the people not to study law, but the government can set a policy to tell the students what the market needs," The JBA is working on an

amendment to the law to allow registration for the bar only once a year and to admit only about 200 applicants each year. Graduates may currently apply to the bar at four different times a year with an unlimited number of applicants accepted.

As many as 200 graduates will apply at each of the four different times. "It's a big number for a country like Jordan," said Mr. Rosheidat.

Another possible amendment would require that graduates pass an exam before applying for registration with the bar. Under current law, graduates take an oral and written test at the completion of their one-to-two years of training, but are not required to take a test before they train.

Such a test would sift out top students to complete training under supervision of the limited number of qualified trainee lawyers.

Amman lawyer Ahmad Rateb Al Juneidi, who completed his training

recently, thinks potential lawyers should be put to the test before they even try for the degree.

"It's not the problem of the bar association," he said. It's (a problem of) the universities because they accept anybody to practise law. Since the opening of the private universities, the problem became more difficult.

"I suggest to limit the number of students who are accepted to courses for the law degree."

Mr. Juneidi said he decided to study law because of his father's success as a lawyer.

"Other students continue to pursue law despite a saturated market because they are interested in obtaining the type of reputation enjoyed by respected lawyers, Mr. Juneidi asserted.

"I wouldn't suggest anybody to do law unless his father or his brother is a well-known lawyer because it's not going to work out."

DEMAND FOR RELEASE:

Palestinian human rights activists demonstrate Monday for the immediate release of their colleague Iyad Al-Sarraj, who is under detention by the Palestinian self-rule authority. Mr. Sarraj, who heads an independent citizens rights group, was arrested for the third time last week for speaking out against Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's administration (see page 12) (Reuters photo)



Queen Noor meets with UNFPA executive director

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Monday met with the executive director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Naif Sadeq to discuss findings of the "International Consultative Forum on Education for All" that is being held in Amman, as well as the expansion of joint projects between the UNFPA and non-governmental organizations in Jordan. Queen Noor reiterated His Majesty King Hussein's message to the forum that stressed the importance of education's role in empowering people to face the new needs and challenges of this modern era.

Dr. Sadeq and the Queen also reviewed the progress of the "Population Programme for the Grassroots," which was launched in August 1994 with funding from UNFPA to introduce reproductive health and family planning concepts in 13 remote villages

where the NHF's Quality of Life Project is being implemented.

The Quality of Life Project, which was initiated in 1989, introduced into the country the concept of comprehensive, integrated development, whose methodology has been adopted by government and non-governmental agencies.

The project, which strengthens decision-making among women at a home- and community-level by promoting grassroots community participation in planning and implementation schemes, has enabled women to maximise their benefits from the Population Programme's training and educational courses.

Queen Noor also briefed Dr. Sadeq on her upcoming trip to Bosnia to support the women who have been widowed and separated from their families by the wide-scale massacres of Muslim Bosnian men by the Serb militia.

NEWS IN BRIEF

580 Indonesians die on Hajj

JAKARTA (R) — At least 580 Indonesian Muslims died during the Hajj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia this year, religious affairs Minister Tarmidzi Thaber said on Monday. About 0.3 per cent (of 195,000 people who went on the Hajj) died because of illness during the pilgrimage this year. Every year the average incidence of Indonesians dying during the Hajj is between 0.2 per cent and 0.4 per cent, Mr. Thaber said. Last year, 219 Indonesians died in Saudi Arabia, mostly because of illness, old age and the effects of the intense Saudi heat. About 85 per cent of Indonesia's 195 million people are Muslim.

Arafat dreams of another child

CAIRO (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's wife, Suha, says her husband talks of his hopes for another child. "Ahu Ammar is dreaming of another baby, whether it is a boy or a girl," she said in an interview with the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat, using Arafat's code name. Mrs. Arafat had a girl last year, the first child for Arafat, 66, after four years of marriage to the French-educated Palestinian woman, who was his secretary before their wedding. She said in the interview published Monday that she was not pregnant. She also complained that Mr. Arafat, who is busy running the "Palestinian National Authority" and travelling abroad, does not have enough time to spend with her of their baby, Zahya. But Mrs. Arafat, 32, who spends much of her time with her daughter in Paris, said she does not regret her marriage to Mr. Arafat. "If I had the chance again, I wouldn't have chosen anybody else but Arafat," she said.

Turkish council approves Iraq patrols

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's powerful security council has approved the mandate for a U.S.-led allied air force in southern Turkey to continue flights to protect Kurds in northern Iraq, Anadolu news agency said on Monday. The council, in a meeting late on Sunday night, decided that the length of the extension should be fixed at a later date by the cabinet of caretaker Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz. Mr. Yilmaz, whose coalition collapsed earlier this month, had vowed that the mandate would be reviewed before being approved again but a prolonged political crisis has so far prevented any change in the operation. U.S., British and French planes have patrolled the skies of northern Iraq from the Incirlik air base in Turkey since shortly after the end of the Gulf war in 1991.

Japan promises \$119m loans to Lebanon

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said on Monday Japan would extend some 13 billion Yen (\$119 million) in loans to Lebanon. Mr. Hashimoto made the pledge during a meeting with visiting Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said. The loans would be used mainly for building water supply and sewage systems in Lebanon, the official said. Mr. Hariri arrived here on Sunday for a three-day visit for talks with Japanese government and business leaders.

Israeli detention of journalist draws condemnation

BEIRUT (AFP) — Israel has confirmed the arrest of an Agence France-Presse correspondent in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon, triggering a wave of protests in Lebanon.

Ali Diya, 44, was arrested on Thursday on suspicion of collaboration with the militant group Hizbollah, an Israeli army spokesman said. Israel originally denied it was holding Mr. Diya.

Hizbollah spearheads anti-Israeli attacks in South Lebanon. A resident of South Lebanon named Ali Diya was arrested on suspicion of collaborating with Hizbollah, the army spokesman said in Tel Aviv.

On Friday a well-informed source in the buffer strip said Mr. Diya had been taken to for questioning by the South

Lebanon army. Israel's proxy militia in the zone.

Diya — the first Lebanese journalist detained in Israel — also works for Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri's private Future Television station and the daily Al Safir newspaper. Officials from the AFP bureau in Jerusalem met with Israeli authorities to determine Mr. Diya's situation and demanded he be released.

Mr. Diya's arrest triggered a wave of protests in Lebanon and was seen by press officials and human rights leaders as "an act of piracy" and a "violation of human rights."

The Lebanese press syndicate spearheaded calls for international pressure on Israel to secure his release. Talal Salzman, owner and editor in chief of the mass circulation Al Safir daily in Lebanon told AFP that Mr.

Diya's detention "is a blatant violation of the rights of the Lebanese people and the press."

"This is another crime by Israel against a Lebanese civilian," Mr. Salzman said. The president of the press syndicate, Mohammad Balalaka, said Israel's action "shows the breadth of the Israeli enemy's anger towards the Lebanese media which has always been able to foil attempts by Israel to fool international opinion."

"It is necessary for international opinion to act against such attempts on the freedom of the press and human dignity," Mr. Balalaka said in a statement published by the state-run National News Agency. His call was echoed by the Committee of Support for Lebanese and Arab Prisoners Held in Israeli jails which charged

that Mr. Diya's arrest "is an act of piracy that violates human rights and press laws."

The head of the union of editors, Melhem Karam, accused Israel of "state terrorism."

"Israel has gone beyond all limits to silence the voices of those who fulfil their professional duties by revealing the crimes they are carrying out," Mr. Karam said in a statement to the press.

A human rights group comprising Lebanese intellectuals... appealed... for international efforts to seek Mr. Diya's immediate release.

Mr. Diya has worked for AFP for the last five years and was previously employed by the radio of Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army.

Egypt back in the limelight as Arabs seek unity

CAIRO (R) — When Arab leaders called their first summit in six years to assess Israeli right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu's historic election triumph, picking the host country was the least of their headaches.

Egypt, the most populous Arab country and the first to make peace with Israel, was pencilled in as the venue before the summit was even announced.

The country which sees itself as the centre of gravity of the Arab World and fondly calls its capital Om Al Dunya (mother of the world) was an obvious choice.

Only President Hosni

Mubarak, Egyptians said, could put a unified front on the fractious Arab World, still split by the fall-out from Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and divided over how fast to make peace with Israel.

"This is the role of Egypt, to narrow gaps, bring partners together... Our role is pivotal, one government official said.

Just days after Mr. Netanyahu won Israel's elections on a platform opposing the basic Arab demand of land-for-peace, Mr. Mubarak launched a series of busy meetings with Arab leaders.

Bridging over the deep

differences between Syria, Jordan, Gulf Arab states and the Palestinians, Mr. Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa said the summit agenda should be based on the broad Arab principles of a "balanced peace" with Israel.

"This summit is tailor-made for Mr. Mubarak's foreign policy," said one Cairo-based diplomat. "It's pro-peace but it's got a foot in all of the Arab camps."

When former President Anwar Sadat broke Arab ranks and made peace with Israel in 1979, Egypt was spurned by the Arab World. The Cairo-based Arab League packed its bags and

Egypt was an outcast.

But now officials say that far from undermining relations with Arab states, Cairo's 17-year peace with Israel and its strong links with Washington make it a regional cornerstone.

"We preceded all other attempts at peace," one official said. "We opened the wide avenues for others to follow."

Mr. Musa says Egypt has always been at the centre of Arab politics. "I don't know if we lost that role," he said last week. "We in the Arab World have a certain system. Egypt is the largest Arab country and we are for peace, but a bal-

anced peace."

Mr. Mubarak, who marks 15 years in power this year, hosted the last Arab summit in a vain search for an Arab solution to Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Egypt also hosted talks between Israel and the PLO when their landmark 1993 accord for Palestinian autonomy looked to be stumbling at the first hurdle, and tried to mediate between the warring parties in Yemen's 1994 civil war.

"It's their traditional role and it also fits the personality of the current regime," a Western diplomat said. "Mubarak has built up a

reputation as a serious interlocutor."

In 1994 Jordan's peace deal with Israel turned attention on Amman, prompting sour remarks from Egyptian media accustomed to basking in the regional limelight.

But shockwaves in the Arab World from Mr. Netanyahu's victory gave Egypt a chance to shine again.

"They're reestablishing themselves," a diplomat said. "Sometimes it's pre-emptive, sometimes it's not, but only Egypt can play this role in the Arab World."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00... Iris
15:20... Captain Planet
15:45... The Bomb Morrison Show
16:25... Comedy — ALF
17:00... News Flash
17:40... Ordy
17:15... Magazine — La Vie Devant Moi
17:30... Que Le Melleur Gagne
18:00... Magazine — Savoir Plus Sans
19:00... Magazine — Ushuaia
20:25... Deep Probe Expeditions
21:10... Star Trek
22:00... News in English
22:25... Feature film — "Murder in New Hampshire"

(These programmes might change due to live transmission of European Championship)

PRAYER TIMES

03:50... Fajr
05:25... (Shari'ah) Dhuhr
12:30... Dhuhr
16:17... 'Asr
19:48... Maghrib
21:23... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swetlitch, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627285
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De La Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman
Tel. 811295.
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Fine weather conditions will prevail with temperatures below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Agaba, winds will be northerly active and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 15/26
Agaba 22/34
Djersa 14/29
Jordan Valley 20/34

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 28, Agaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 52 per cent, Agaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Halasch 819220
Dr. Rami Sakkar 656457
Dr. Ghazi Abu Slihab 752405
Dr. Mohammad Labbadch 683585
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637025
Nairoukh pharmacy 623472
Al Salam pharmacy 630730
Yacoub pharmacy 648045
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623472
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Fajal 992591
Khaliel pharmacy 955417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 843990
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Water and Sewerage 661176
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 08-53200
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
ANMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 83813/32
Khaliel Maternity, J. Ann 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Ann. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushtaq Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/27
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775112/6
Army, Marsha 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital (02)247100
AQA: 84

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone (08) 52700.

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:00... Damascus (RJ)
08:15... Samaa (RJ)
08:40... Muscat (RJ)
08:15... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
09:20... Beirut (RJ)
10:35... Dubai (RJ)
10:50... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
14:05... New York (RJ)
17:30... London (RJ)
17:40... Frankfurt (RJ)
18:25... Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
01:15... Salalah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights
14:00... Munich, Aleppo (YP)
14:10... Frankfurt (YP)
16:00... Rome (AZ)
16:30... Dubai (EK)
19:25... Amsterdam (KL)
20:20... London (BA)
20:20... Aden (YV)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50... Agaba (RW)
19:45... Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:35... Beirut (RJ)
09:30... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:10... Agaba, Paris, Madrid (RJ)
12:10... Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15... Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:10... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:15... Paris (RJ)
13:15... London (RJ)
14:05... London (RJ)
16:30... Salalah (add) (RJ)
21:10... Jeddah (RJ)
21:20... Larnaca (RJ)
21:05... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
22:30... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights

09:15... London (BA)
15:10... Frankfurt (YP)
15:45... Munich (YP)
17:00... Rome (AZ)
17:30... Dubai (EK)
20:45... Kuwait (KL)
21:20... Aden (YV)
22:15... Cairo (MS)
01:05... Bucharest (RO)
04:00... Amsterdam (KL)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

10:00... Agaba (Marka Airport) (RW)

HJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg:

Apricot 800 / 500
Apple 700 / 500
Banana 600/600
Banana (Mukammur) 520/520
Banana (imported) 780/530
Cabbage 70 / 50
Carrot 160/100
Cauliflower 250/150
Cucumber (large) 30/40
Cucumber (small) 140 / 130
Eggplant 300 / 140
Garlic 650/400
Lemon 800/500
Marrow (large) 160 / 100
Marrow (small) 220 / 160
Mushrooms 160/110
Onion (dry) 130 / 80
Okra 1000 / 600
Orange 400/300
Pea 500/250
Peach 500/400
Pepper (hot) 440 / 320
Pepper (sweet) 440/320
Potato 500 / 350
Spinach 120/70
Watermelon 100 / 70

Tel. 844238 / 838882 Fax 847639
P.O.Box 540851 Amman 11937 Jordan

Major condemns callous bombing; police seek driver

MANCHESTER, England (R) — Prime Minister John Major Monday condemned the suspected IRA bombing of a British city as a "callous and barbaric crime" and said he would not be deflected from seeking peace in Northern Ireland.

In a message to the people of Manchester, where more than 200 people were hurt Saturday by a huge truck bomb, Mr. Major said his heart went out to those caught up in the blast.

"The terrorists must see that their guns and their bombs will not deflect a democratic society either from the belief it holds so dear or from the determined pursuit of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland," he said in a statement.

Manchester city centre remained sealed off, paralysing business in one of Britain's biggest cities, as police cleared the devastation wrought by the bomb that exploded outside a major shopping centre, shattering windows over a huge area.

Police said it was one of the largest bombs ever planted on the British mainland, containing one to 1.5 tonnes of explosive material. Eight victims remained in hospital Monday, including one woman who had needed more than 300 stitches to her face.

Two colour pictures of the truck exploding were released by police who said they were carefully sorting through 40 hours of video camera film for clues about the bombers' identity.

"We have six to eight men looking purely at video film," said Detective Superintendent Bernard Rees, the man leading the hunt for the bombers.

"The size of this team could increase...it's a huge task," he told a news conference, saying the bombers had been "quite audacious" in managing to park the truck in the city centre without drawing attention to themselves.

No group has yet claimed responsibility but the Irish Republican Army (IRA) planted a number of bombs in London after breaking off a 17-month ceasefire in February.

Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, has been barred from multi-party talks on the future of British-ruled Northern Ireland because the guerrillas refuse to reinstate the truce.

The blast left Sinn Fein further away than ever from being admitted to the historic peace talks.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams has expressed sympathy with the victims but avoided condemning the incident. He said all sides must "dig deep" for a lasting peace built on dialogue.

Pro-British Protestants in Northern Ireland said the bomb proved that the IRA and Sinn Fein could never be trusted.

"The IRA have no sincerity whatsoever...therefore cut them out of the talks altogether. Let's accept the fact that we cannot rehabilitate them, that there can be no metamorphosis," Ulster Unionist Party security spokesman Ken

Maginnis said.

Britain indicated that not even an IRA truce would now automatically open the door to Sinn Fein.

"I think it will be very much more difficult for the IRA to convince the rest of the world that any ceasefire they might now propose would be permanent and genuine," British Home Secretary Michael Howard told BBC Radio Monday.

"You can't let off a bomb in Manchester Saturday, declare a ceasefire Sunday and expect to be admitted to peace talks Monday," Mr. Howard said.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton called the bomb a "slap in the face" to people who had been trying to give Sinn Fein a chance and said his government would be reviewing its relationship with the organisation at a meeting Tuesday.

The IRA, which has been fighting for 25 years to overturn British rule in Northern Ireland, ended its truce in protest at what it saw as British intransigence in the peace process.

Manchester Police said the van containing the bomb had been bought Friday by a man with an Irish accent in the town of Peterborough, 160 kilometres southeast of Manchester.

The purchaser, who paid £2,000 (\$3,500), sent the money to the previous owner by taxi so as not to identify himself. He later picked up the empty truck from a car park.

Insurers put the cost of damage as high as £100 million (\$165 million). "There are a number of buildings which will have to be demolished. It's a big repair job," Assistant Chief Constable Colin Phillips told the news conference.

Meanwhile Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has condemned a huge bomb blast which injured more than 200 people in England Saturday.

"This is an act which should not be supported," Col. Qadhafi was quoted as telling the official Libyan news agency.

"Should it be confirmed that the IRA was behind the bombing which took place...in the centre of the English city of Manchester, it would mean that the IRA deviated a great deal from liberating Ireland," the Libyan leader added.

The British embassy in Cairo said Monday it welcomed Col. Qadhafi's weekend statement.

"We welcome the fact that he has so promptly joined the chorus of condemnation of this horrific attack," an embassy spokesman said.

Last year Britain said Libya had answered a series of questions about its links with the Irish Republican Army in what it called a positive step towards complying with United Nations resolutions to renounce "terrorism."

But Western diplomats said Monday that Britain still wanted to see concrete steps from Col. Qadhafi, whose country has been under a U.N. air embargo since 1992 for refusing to hand over two Libyans accused of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.



Pregnant bomb victim Melanie Russell, aged 23, lies in a hospital bed at St. Mary's in Manchester with her boyfriend Michael Kilpatrick. Ms. Russell was blown 15 feet through the air by the blast, however Doctor's say that both she and her baby, due in two weeks, are uninjured (Reuters photo)

Awami League confident of forming government with Jatiya support

DHAKA (AFP) — Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the daughter of Bangladesh's founding leader, is set to become the nation's second female prime minister, following the confirmation that the Jatiya Party (JP) will support her.

Party sources Monday said Mrs. Hasina's Awami League was now confident of forming Bangladesh's next government after the JP of jailed former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad reaffirmed its support Sunday night.

"Yes, of course, we have lent support to (the) Awami League," JP Secretary-General Anwar Hossain told reporters late Sunday.

He added: "Those who expressed different views did that in their personal capacity, (and) it is sure that those views in no way can undo the statement issued by myself and party acting chief Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury" Saturday.

His comments, which ended a day of confusion over the party's role when it emerged as the power broker after the June 12 general elections, followed 90-minute talks with Awami League chief and Prime Minister-apparent Hasina Wajed.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Mrs. Hasina's father, led Bangladesh to independence from Pakistan in 1971. He was killed and his post-independence government toppled during a 1975 bloody military coup.

Gen. Ershad's brother, G.M. Kader, also elected on a Jatiya ticket, was at the talks along with other senior leaders.

The JP leader's wife, Raushan, met Gen. Ershad in prison Sunday night and later told the Janaknatha newspaper: "I have no objection to the statement issued, but it would have been better to have arrived at such a decision in a party meeting."

Gen. Ershad, who ruled Bangladesh with an iron fist for nearly nine years, is serving a 13-year prison term for graft. He won five seats, the maximum permitted for each candidate, in the June 12 elections.

In a handwritten letter, published in the Bangladesh Patrika newspaper, Gen. Ershad said he was authorising Mr. Hossain

and his brother to negotiate the support for the Awami League.

It was still unclear what the conditions were, but apparently Gen. Ershad's release was a key consideration.

However, a League spokesman told AFP that Mrs. Hasina maintained her government would allow "the laws of the land to take its own course" in the case.

A presidential palace source said diplomats and politicians from leading parties had held talks with President Abdur Rahman Biswas over the past few days. "We have no fascination for any party, but we would like to see the constitutional process followed," he quoted the diplomats as telling Mr. Biswas.

The source added that Mr. Biswas, a member of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), maintained that he would follow the constitution and call upon the majority party to form the new government.

"Most likely, if all goes well, the new government will take the oath of office around June 24," he said, referring to the end of the election process after repolling Wednesday in 27 constituencies.

Newspapers reported the BNP was still trying to woo the JP, but political commentators said it was unlikely that Gen. Ershad would reverse his stand, as he held the BNP responsible for his falling.

The Awami League now leads a bloc of 167 seats in the 300-seat parliament — 134 of its own, plus the support of one independent MP, the JP's 29 seats and two seats held by two smaller allied parties.

A total 151 out of 300 parliamentary seats is needed for an absolute majority.

Mrs. Khaleda's BNP holds 104 seats.

MPs will select another 30 seats reserved for women when parliament convenes.

The Election Commission has gazetted 273 results, despite the BNP's demand that results be withheld until their complaints regarding irregularities in 111 constituencies were investigated.

Russian TV puppets push the boat out on poll night

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin may be engaged in a deadly serious fight for political survival but Monday Russian television let its hair down with a hilarious election night spoof.

The satirical Kukly (Puppets) Programme on NTV independent television, in a special broadcast just hours after early results put Mr. Yeltsin narrowly ahead, showed the candidates celebrating and falling into the Moscow River.

After an all-night party aboard a river pleasure boat, only Mr. Yeltsin and his main Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov were left standing on deck, looking at the debris.

The two men are expected to meet in a run-off early next month.

"Hey, where are you going?" Mr. Yeltsin's puppet shouted as the others plunged into the water. "Ungrateful people. They ate, drank and never even said 'thank you.'"

"The rats have abandoned the ship," remarked the rubber likeness of Mr. Zyuganov, hobbling and gesticulating beside him.

Kukly's special election-night edition portrayed Kremlin security chief Alexander Korzhakov and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev dressed as waiters serving drinks.

"Some people think the president is being elected today," said Gen. Korzhakov. "That's not true. Today they are electing us, voting on whether or not we should continue to serve in the buffet."

Mr. Yeltsin, sitting at the head of the table

laden with food and vodka bottles, proposed a toast. "Let us drink for the best man to win the election!" he said.

Ultra-nationalist candidate Vladimir Zhirinovskiy objected. "Why should I drink to his (Yeltsin's) victory?" he asked his neighbour at the table, liberal presidential hopeful Grigory Yavlinsky.

Mikhail Gorbachev, who finished as one of the also-rans in the real election, was shown desperately seeking attention, calling a telephone hotline offering intimate conversation services.

"I need to talk to someone. Today was such a tense day," said the former Soviet president. "Don't say anything. I will do the talking. I have great potential...I always wanted consensus. I wanted it so much and still do."

In another scene, Central Electoral Commission Chairman Nikolai Ryabov, exhausted by counting thousands of ballot papers, began turning them into paper darts and throwing them into the river.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy was shown reeling in some of the papers with a fishing rod. "Look, they voted for me," he cried. "Another one for me."

The only candidates to survive the trip were Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Zyuganov. The rest jumped overboard to retrieve lost votes.

Kukly has gone from strength to strength, surviving legal moves by prosecutors last year to take it to court for making fun of Mr. Yeltsin.

Singer banned after remark about Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia's central Selangor state has banned all shows by an award-winning singer after he allegedly made a flippant remark about Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, reports said Monday. The popular singer and songwriter M. Nasir was to be punished for showing disrespect to the premier, a state official was quoted saying in the New Straits Times daily. The decision followed the Information Ministry's Saturday banning of Nasir from government radio and television stations, after the singer allegedly quipped, "who is Dr. Mahathir?" when told Dr. Mahathir would be attending a poetry recital. Nasir also apparently did not turn up for the show although he was scheduled to recite a poem. The Singaporean-born singer has since denied making the remark, but authorities are not backing off. "Such misconduct should not go unpunished," said Abdul Fatah Iskandar, a member of Selangor's State Executive Council for Youth and Sports, adding that Nasir's loyalty to Malaysia was now suspect.

Paralysed man sues doctor for keeping him alive

SAN DIEGO (R) — Virgil Ray Noonkester is suing his doctor for keeping him alive. Mr. Noonkester is asking Dr. Lawrence Kline, who saved his life by ordering a tracheotomy in December 1993 when he suffered respiratory failure, to pay his medical costs and for round-the-clock attendants now needed to keep him alive. He alleged the doctor disregarded his wish not to take special measures to save him. Mr. Noonkester, 67, has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, an incurable degenerative nerve disorder commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Paralysed from the waist down, he can only move his head back and forth and up and down.

Chinese in richest county earn \$3,132 a year

BEIJING (R) — Changdao county has become the richest county in China with per capita gross domestic product (GDP) at 26,000 yuan (\$3,132) in 1995, the Xinhua News Agency said. The per capita GDP of Changdao, composed of 32 islands with 40,000 residents, is expected to reach \$10,000 by the year 2000, it quoted county official Song Xiuwu as saying. Each household in the county in eastern Shandong province has at least one television and one washing machine. 90 per cent have refrigerators and over 50 per cent have telephones, video recorders and audio systems, Xinhua said.

Beijing residents are more aloof — survey

BEIJING (R) — The traditionally "friendly and warm-hearted" residents of China's capital, Beijing, now know less about their neighbours, a survey said. The survey, carried by the Xinhua News Agency, showed only 18 per cent of the 600 people interviewed said they knew all their neighbours well, while two per cent said they did not know any of their neighbours. Some 62 per cent of the interviewees, aged between 16 and 35, said neighbours were only nodding acquaintances and almost all said just one per cent of their close friends come from the same neighbourhood. Beijing's residents have traditionally kept close ties with each other for decades. But the survey said relationships have become more aloof as the city has become more crowded with high-rise buildings.

Republicans suspect Hillary Clinton in FBI files affair

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Republican lawmakers said Sunday they suspect U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton may have played a role in the White House obtaining more than 400 sensitive FBI background files in 1993 and 1994.

William Clinger, chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, said his panel will begin hearings Wednesday and suggested that Hillary Clinton was a suspect in the search for the person responsible for ordering the White House to get the records.

Appearing on the programme Fox News Sunday, Mr. Clinger said "I know that the first lady was involved in the firing of the Travel Office seven," referring to staff members fired shortly after Mr. Clinton took office in 1993.

"We do know that she had a direct role in that. It has been denied by the White House, but she was involved," Mr. Clinger said. "So I think that has obviously raised our suspicions."

Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said on the same programme he doubted that low-level White House officials were responsible. "Lower level people don't get that kind of information."

Both agreed that the affair had the potential to reach the proportions of a Watergate, the scandal that led to President Richard Nixon's resignation from office.

"I think at this point it's premature to say it's approaching that (Watergate level), although I think it has the potential to do that," Mr. Clinger said.

On Face The Nation on CBS, Senate majority leader Trent Lott said he felt there was "a pattern of concealment or obstruction" by the White House in both the Whitewater affair and with the FBI files.

"I think that needs to be looked into," the Mississippi Republican said, saying he favoured holding congressional hearings on the issue. "There's a pattern of things being done and then everyone saying, 'gee, I didn't know that.'"

President Bill Clinton has said that he will take responsibility for the "innocent bureaucratic mistake" and has apologised. He said none of the FBI information, which included files on some top Republicans, had been abused.

Associate White House counsel Mark Fabiani said on the Fox programme that obtaining the files was "a big mistake, it was a huge mistake."

"So far, every fact which has emerged points to an innocent bureaucratic blunder," he said.

Last week, the FBI sharply rebuked the White House after its own inquiry found "egregious violations of privacy had occurred." Director Louis Freeh ordered the agency to immediately adopt reforms making it more difficult to obtain secret files.

Prospective Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole compared the incident to the infamous "enemies list" gathered by President Richard Nixon's White House in the early 1970s.

House of Representatives majority leader Dick Armey of Texas has dismissed Mr. Clinton's explanation.

"I think what the president is saying is untrue, but I don't think the president

knows enough about truth or falsehood outside of his own convenience and his own life to understand what is an untruth when he says it," Mr. Armey said in an interview on the CNN programme Evans and Novak.

Republicans paradoxically are counting on Americans' still-fresh memories of FBI manipulation by Nixon to help their efforts to discredit President Clinton.

Congressional committees are scrambling to schedule hearings this week to examine why White House employees believed they had the right to seek and receive from the FBI, between December 1993 and February 1994, private files on more than 400 people.

Nothing for now indicates the Democratic administration used the highly confidential information for partisan ends, as was flagrantly done in the Watergate scandal that forced then-President Nixon to resign in August 1974.

The FBI files contain detailed information on individuals concerning their private life, financial situation and health.

The House of Representatives government and reform oversight panel is set to hold its first hearing on the file transfers Wednesday.

The White House has blamed the situation on a "mistaken understanding" that the individuals whose files were improperly obtained still had access to the White House under the Clinton administration.

When the first FBI files were given to the administration, in late 1993, the White House was in the throes of a siege mentality following a series of blunders that cost Mr. Clinton some of his initial luster.

The Republicans are hanging away at the Watergate theme, aware that scandal has more resonance with the public than the murky Whitewater affair, entangled in old fraud cases in Arkansas, where the president was formerly governor.

The comparison for now seems outrageous. Mr. Clinton has insisted that he would "never tolerate or condone any kind of enemies' list." But the Republicans know that their accusations will leave traces of doubt.

"Nothing is potentially as dangerous as using the FBI for its own purposes," wrote Daniel Schorr, who reported on Watergate, in the New York Times.

Mr. Nixon's misuse of the FBI led to enactment of a 1974 law protecting privacy rights to prevent such abuse.

Republicans have pointed out that this is not the first time Clinton aides have misused the FBI.

The first incident occurred in 1993, the so-called Travelgate affair involving the firing of seven employees in the White House Travel Office, led to the discovery of the Filegate scandal.

The White House was accused of getting rid of those employees to give the job of managing travel services for the White House Press Corps to Mr. Clinton's political friends.

In an apparent aim to justify the firings after the fact, a close Clinton aide had asked the FBI to say it had opened a criminal investigation against the employees. It was later found to be untrue.

Burma reports another NLD defection

RANGOON (AFP) — Burma's state-run press Monday reported a fresh defection from the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD), one of a series of resignations dismissed by Aung San Suu Kyi as "not binding."

Myo Myint, NLD candidate in the 1990 abortive general elections from Myitha township in Mandalay, resigned Sunday citing disenchantment with politics, press reports said.

His withdrawal from politics was one of at least a dozen NLD resignations since Burma's military rulers detained more than 260 NLD supporters ahead of a party congress last month.

Myo Myint decided to quit "of his own volition," the press quoted an Election Commission announcement as saying. Similar announcements were made for other NLD men.

In a public appearance Sunday, Ms. Suu Kyi said the party had anticipated that NLD candidates would be pressured to resign while in detention.

"We also said any documents signed by our members under pressure are not binding according to law," she added.

Elected candidates should be deemed to be carrying out their duties until the people who voted for them "decide otherwise," she told a crowd of at least 4,000 people outside the gate to her residential compound.

"They can never give up their responsibilities to the people no matter what anybody says about their so-called resignations," the NLD leader held.

She also dismissed suggestions that the 1990 candidates' terms of office had expired, saying this could not happen until after a term specified by the first parliament, which has not met.

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Established 1984

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Convening an Arab summit per se does not signal an Arab departure from the commitment to a just and durable peace in the area. Forging a united Arab front will lend support to the search for peace and not the other way round.

Reports that Mr. Netanyahu had assured Arab emissaries that despite all the rhetoric, he, as Israel's first directly elected prime minister, will soon resume talks on both the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks are most promising. After all Mr. Netanyahu was elected on a platform of "security, peace," and he is expected to fulfil both promises by securing his people and pursuing peace with his neighbours. A statement of commitment to peace from the Arab leaders meeting in Amman next week will certainly strengthen the Israeli prime minister's hand against his radical opponents.

A WRITER FOR Al Ra'i daily cast a very gloomy picture of the Cairo economic summit due in four months' time, saying that businessmen seem to have lost all interest in it due to the lack of peace. Israel still occupies the West Bank and Gaza, the Syrian and Lebanese wars, and is now taking an adamant stand towards the Arabs, something which creates a very negative atmosphere for the business community, said Fahd Al Faneik. He said, however, which hosted an earlier economic summit, the United Arab Emirates, which will host the coming event, are not really of great real interest in the Cairo meeting, while the Americans are keeping away and not venturing into the area, which is considered an American sphere of influence, he said the writer. As to the United States, the Middle East is not one of its priorities, except where its security is concerned, but since Israel has recently initiated direct contacts with the Arab countries, the United States is no more willing to give backing to a policy of isolationism as was earlier assumed, the writer said. Therefore, said the writer, the projected Cairo economic summit can be considered a total failure in itself, since, he said, the essential elements for it and for the economic summit do not exist.

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily said Monday that the convening of an Arab summit in Cairo on June 21 should be welcomed as a step towards ending the deterioration in the Arab ambience and could serve as a move towards initiating Arab action to stem Israel's aggression. Tayseer Zibri said for the pessimists, the coming summit is not bound to bring any improvement in position, but optimists see otherwise and look to the meeting as a means of rallying Arab countries' efforts towards the attainment of common goals. For its part, Syria hopes that the summit will rally the Arab states' support for its stand against Israel's declared intention of perpetuating its occupation of the Syrian heights; for the Egyptians, the summit helps reaffirm Cairo's leading position in the Arab World while for the Palestinians, the summit would rally the Arab states behind their drive to ensure Israel's implementation of the Oslo agreements, according to the writer. Jordan, which welcomed the coming meeting, is officially unperturbed because it believes that Benjamin Netanyahu is committed to the peace treaty with Jordan and there is no room for pessimism. Therefore, he said, there is all the chance for the success of the Cairo meeting which brings most of the Arab leaders together for the first time in six years.

The writer, a former New Zealand diplomat, is author of "Collision Course: America and East Asia, in the Past and the Future." This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

That is why everyone is simultaneously rebuilding and rearming, he added. "If your house was burned, if you were taken away to a concentration camp by your neighbours, and then NATO says, 'We'll help you for a while, but we're leaving by Dec. 20,' you would be a fool not to be preparing for the next round."

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi minister meets Algerian leaders

PARIS (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed Al Sabah, on a north African tour to boost cooperation, met Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia on Monday, the official Algerian news agency APS said. Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Arafat attended the meeting. APS said. It gave no further details. Iraq is seeking to boost trade exchanges with north African states after it signed an oil-for-food deal with the United Nations. Mr. Sabah held talks with Algeria's ministers of trade and energy and other officials after arriving on Saturday with a letter from President Saddam Hussein for Algerian President Liamine Zeroual. He has already been to Libya and Tunisia.

Turkey: Incursions into Iraq are over

ANKARA (R) — Turkey said on Monday its troops had withdrawn from northern Iraq after making limited incursions against Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas there. "As far as I know the last operation's already over and all the Turkish troops are already withdrawn from the border areas," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nurettin Nurkan told a news briefing. Turkish security officials said fighting with the PKK had spilled several kilometres across the mountainous border last week. Turkey says 163 rebels and only eight soldiers died in clashes in the border area.

S. Lankan embassy investigates maid injuries

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Embassy said here on Monday it was investigating the claims of a Sri Lankan maid, hospitalised in serious condition, who says she was beaten and stabbed by her employer. "Yesterday (Sunday) in the morning somebody from the hospital telephoned here and said the girl was with them," Dhammika Moonemalle, secretary for labour welfare at the Sri Lankan embassy in Kuwait, told AFP. A representative was sent to see the maid who found her with a "partly shaved head, scars all over her body and her legs were swollen," Ms. Moonemalle said, adding that the scars included knife wounds. The maid claimed the employer mistreated her.

First aid flight lands in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A Moroccan military transport plane flew 14 tonnes of medical and food supplies into the Gaza Strip on Monday, becoming the first aid flight to land at the Palestinian new airport. The Hercules aircraft, carrying the supplies as a gift from Morocco's King Hassan II, was met by Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Mideen and other senior officials of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was on an official visit to China. A Moroccan delegation led by Ahmed Al-Bayaz, general director of the civil aviation authority, arrived aboard the plane. Israel and Arafat's PNA have yet to finalise an agreement on opening the airport at Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, and construction of the terminal and other buildings is still underway.

Palestinians assail Likud policy

(Continued from page 1)

Salameh, a member of the elected Palestinian legislative council who lives in Balata refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus. But given the lack of alternatives for the PNA and Mr. Netanyahu's effort to show peaceful intentions, analysts say it is likely there will nevertheless be an attempt during coming weeks by both sides to establish a working relationship. Bishara Daoud, a council deputy from Bethlehem in the West Bank, predicted the government's approach would "encourage fanaticism."

"I think the international community must interfere to save the peace process," he said, calling on foreign governments to pressure Mr. Netanyahu and his Likud Party to soften their stance when negotiations on a permanent peace settlement resume in coming weeks. Those negotiations, outlined in the Oslo agreement, cover refugee issues, the fate of disputed Jerusalem and Jewish settlements.

The government guidelines say negotiations towards a "permanent arrangement" with the PNA will continue provided the Palestinians "fulfill all their commitments fully." They call for broadening peace relations with Israel's Arab neighbours and urge strengthening Jewish settlement in Israel, a formulation that received added punch Monday when hardliner Ariel Sharon reportedly agreed to accept the key post of housing minister. "Whoever said wait and see the programme of the new government, we have now done so," said Mr. Asfour. This programme is completely threatening to the security and stability and peace in the region and the first people who will be damaged will be the Israeli state," Mr. Asfour said.

"We say to them return back to the (Oslo) agreement and read it well, the time has come to understand the agreement that was signed," he said. "They are still working outside of this framework."

The programme, which is expected to be presented along with the new government in the opening session of parliament, reads as follows: — "The government wants to enlarge the circle of peace with its neighbours while assuring the security of the states and its inhabitants."

— "The government will negotiate with the Palestinian (National) Authority with the goal of reaching a final accord, on the condition that the Palestinians scrupulously respect their commitments."

Saudi diplomat: Iraq is main obstacle to Arab reconciliation

CAIRO (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Egypt, Fuad Mufti said Monday that Iraq remained the main hurdle to healing the rift between Arab countries.

"Much has been done in the past years along the path to Arab reconciliation but the problems with Iraq remain the main obstacle," Mr. Mufti told journalists. "It's an issue which will be resolved in the future once all the factors have been reunited to guarantee security and stability (in the Gulf) in line with international conventions and the charter of the Arab League," he added.

Iraq is the only member of the Arab League not to have been invited to a historic Arab summit to be held June 22-23 in Cairo — the first such meeting since shortly after Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Iraq was being excluded because of continuing "sensitivities" over the invasion, which drove a wedge between the Arab states.

"The peace process to which Arab countries have responsibly committed themselves, is currently undergoing a crisis. That is why this summit must study these developments to keep up the impetus," Mr. Mufti said.

The summit has been convened amid Arab fears for the prospects for Middle East peace, after the victory of right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu in Israeli elections.

which Mr. Ross said would be in violation of U.N. Security Council resolution 242 and the Israeli-Palestinian accords.

The U.S. official also insisted the United States had to be the main broker of peace in the Middle East, ruling out a role for France or the European Union.

He said the existence of more than one mediator would cause friction, and that the U.S. had to remain the intermediary between Syria and Israel as the Jewish state did not trust any other party to carry out the task.

Damascus Radio said Monday the policy programmes of Mr. Netanyahu amounts to "a declaration of war" on the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"Netanyahu has made clear his intention to keep the Golan, Jerusalem and South Lebanon, and maintain Hebrew under Israeli control. These proposals are a declaration of war against the American peace initiative, international efforts and the peace process," said the radio.

"It is only natural that Arabs are shocked by such proposals and it is only right for their leaders to meet to take stock and to remind the international community of its responsibilities," it added.

Dr. Keilani pointed out that "around 1.5 million people between tourists and foreign residents pass through Jordan every year, and they, together with wealthy Jordanians, are the ones which should be targeted by the government's new price policies."

Neither the NSCP or the Ministry of Supply, however, would specify how the different categories of wealthy Jordanians, tourists, foreign residents and poor Jordanians, could be identified.

"We are waiting for the government's decision, before taking any action," said Dr. Keilani, whose society has been very active in the past and launched a national boycott against coffee when, in last December, coffee prices almost doubled.

NSCP President Mohammed Obeidat told the Jordan Times he expects a decision by the committee which is studying the lifting of subsidies on bread to be taken within the next two weeks.

Flour, powder milk, sugar and rice are currently subsidised by the government.

The Ministry of Supply issues special coupons which are distributed to all Jordanians living on a monthly salary of less than JD 500.

Netanyahu can negotiate with Assad, Ross asserts

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu can negotiate with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross told the Arabic weekly Al Wasat Monday.

Mr. Ross said in an interview that Syria had to be the main focus of the peace process, adding that Likud leader Netanyahu could easily deal with the Syrian leader.

Asked if it would be easier for Mr. Netanyahu to envisage a withdrawal from the strategic Golan Heights than it had been for incumbent Prime Minister Shimon Peres, the State Department official said he could not tell.

But he added that Mr. Netanyahu had a better chance of winning the support of the Israeli people on the issue, if he chose to, than his predecessor had been able to do.

Mr. Netanyahu has ruled out discussing a return to Syria of the Golan, occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war and "annexed" in 1981, while Damascus insists the return of the plateau is the key to any peace deal with the Jewish state.

He has also pledged to increase Jewish settlements in the West Bank, a move

Bread prices

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq is seen unlikely to yield to U.N. demands

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq is unlikely to give in to pressure to change its stand on blocking inspection by U.N. weapons experts when senior U.N. official Rolf Ekeus visits Baghdad, diplomats and analysts said on Monday.

They said Iraq's government, frustrated by the seemingly endless search of its facilities, would dig in its heels unless the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) offered a timetable for the end of its disarmament activities in Iraq.

Baghdad, they said, would demand that UNSCOM, overseeing the scrapping of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire, introduce fresh "inspection procedures," compatible with its own national security guidelines.

Mr. Ekeus, the UNSCOM chairman, is due in Baghdad on Wednesday, but diplomats said his mission to defuse the crisis was not going to be easy.

A team of 53 U.N. arms experts under Russian inspector Nikita Smidovich left Baghdad on Sunday after futile attempts to gain access to five facilities in and around Baghdad which Iraq has declared vital to its national sovereignty.

Iraq turned down three U.N. Security Council demands during the five-day standoff to grant the inspectors immediate and unconditional access.

"Iraqis would like Ekeus to say how much more time he would need to finish his inspections so that they would know when they will be able to export oil freely," said one diplomat.

"From the way I see the events I do not think Ekeus will be in a position to commit himself to any timing," he added.

The ruling Baath Party newspaper Al-Thawra demanded in a commentary on Monday that UNSCOM clearly say what else it needs Iraq to do and inform the security council of all the proscribed items it still suspects are in Iraq's possession.

"Iraq is very keen to put a decisive end to inspection activities by UNSCOM which both the Americans and the British want to turn into an endless story to prolong the embargo," Al Thawra said.

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, in statements last week, reiterated that Baghdad had no intention of disrupting UNSCOM activities but cannot accept an "indefinite" mandate after five years of intensive inspections.

UNSCOM has said that Iraq has complied with most of its disarmament obligations under the Gulf war ceasefire terms. But also says what remains is of paramount significance and without it the commission cannot give Iraq a clean bill of health which could allow unrestricted Iraqi oil exports.

UNSCOM suspects Baghdad still hides 15 of its long-range missiles and documents concerning its past weapons programmes. Baghdad insists it has nothing left to hide and accuses UNSCOM of helping delay the lifting of curbs on its oil exports, part of

comprehensive U.N. trade sanctions imposed for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The row over inspection is not connected to Iraq's separate oil-for-food deal with the United Nations allowing for limited oil exports to enable it to buy humanitarian supplies.

A newspaper in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday called for an end to "humiliating" U.N. inspections of Iraq's suspected weapons sites.

"How much longer will Iraq be subject to these humiliating and harassing experiences from the U.N.?" the Gulf News, an English-language newspaper based in Dubai, said in an editorial.

"It is generally accepted that the belligerent attitude of the U.N. inspectors is fully supported by America and the U.K., and on most occasions, France," it added.

"However, there must surely be a time when a halt should be called to these constant pressures on Iraq," it said.

"The West has to accept that the Iraqi leader is Saddam Hussein. He was before the war, when the West was prepared to turn a blind eye to what was going on in that country," the daily said. "So, having failed, despite their worst, to depose Saddam, the West must now learn to live with him," it said.

It also said "Iraq could do more to comply with the U.N. resolutions by giving full disclosure to their arms and armaments" and speed the country's recovery.

King says results of U.S. visit positive

(Continued from page 1)

that Mr. Netanyahu had contacted "senior Jordanian officials" and "assured them that he, as the first elected prime minister of Israel, is not obliged to adopt the hardline positions of Likud leaders and that he wants to resume peace negotiations on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks as soon as possible."

Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman said meanwhile the Likud leader plans to travel to Jordan and Egypt after making his maiden visit as Israel's prime minister to the United States in early July.

"Netanyahu has expressed his desire to visit these countries... but no specific dates have been chosen," the spokesman was quoted as saying by Agence France Presse in a dispatch from occupied Jerusalem.

Mr. Netanyahu is expected to hold his first official meeting with Mr. Clinton on July 8. Since his narrow election victory over Mr. Peres, Mr. Netanyahu has sought to reassure Jordan and Egypt — the only Arab states to have signed full peace treaties with Israel — that his right-wing government will pursue the peace process carried out under his Labour predecessor.

It is expected that Mr. Kaboriti's talks in the UAE and Bahrain would also deal with Jordan's charges that Syria was behind a series of attempts of sabotage in the Kingdom.

Netanyahu clinches majority

(Continued from page 1)

The other 17 portfolios were kept under wraps. Mr. Sharon, who angered Arabs and the United States by dotting the West Bank and Gaza with settlements under the last Likud government, got back his old job as construction and infrastructure minister responsible for housing.

His reappearance is sure to unsettle Palestinian President Yasser Arafat who has staked his political future on the self-rule accords signed with the outgoing Labour government that froze most settlement.

Likud published its "basic policy guidelines" on Sunday based on the seemingly contradictory stance of pursuing

Middle East peace while strengthening Israel's hold on Arab land (see separate story). Mr. Netanyahu secured 55 Knesset seats through pacts with three small parties on Sunday but Sharsansky, with seven seats, had held out. His Yisrael Ba-Aliya Party wanted a say in housing and social issues affecting three quarters of a million recent immigrants from the former Soviet union.

It originally demanded the housing ministry that went to Sharon. It was unclear how Mr. Netanyahu and Sharsansky resolved the differences. Knesset acting speaker Rehavam Zeevi said on Monday the confidence vote would be postponed until Tuesday.

The exact makeup of Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet, however, remained shrouded in mystery Monday as he wrangled with demanding coalition partners and senior Likud members over who will get the 17 portfolios he is allowed by law.

"It's long and complicated," acknowledged former Likud Justice Minister Dan Meridor, a leading Likud moderate whose future in the new government remained uncertain.

Other Likud Party "princes," possible inheritors of the party leadership and potential rivals to Mr. Netanyahu, did not fare as well: Benjamin Begin, son of the late prime minister, was offered the science and technology ministry. Moshe Katza, head of the Likud faction in the Knesset, was given the choice of tourism or communications.

Crown Prince holds talks in Ottawa

(Continued from page 1)

major role in contributing to comprehensive peace in the region. The Crown Prince also told the conference that despite the difficulties that the peace process faces, peace and stability were at last coming to the region regardless of the "day-to-day ups and downs. There is, in the final analysis, no alternative to peace in the Middle East. It is that simple. The road was never going to be easy, but all its winding paths lead to only one destination."

The Crown Prince said in the keynote address to the conference. "Anyone who has followed the vicissitudes of peace-making in our region over the years has seen hope buried and revived a hundred times," but the underlying reality remains that war and hatred cannot be the basis on which the future should be built."

Prince Hassan told the conference, which is organised by the Canadian International Development Agency.

The Crown Prince said that Canada can help the region achieve peace, saying that it is essential that it continues to play the role of encouraging just and comprehensive peace-making as well as peace-building.

The Crown Prince said that peace in the Middle East will also depend on the degree of tolerance and understanding among peoples of the monotheistic religions, and reiterated the call for continued dialogue among followers of the three religions.

Prince Hassan stressed the tolerant nature of Islam and expressed concern by the spread of "Islamophobia," which is

based on a misconception of Islam and its values. "Islam has been portrayed by some as a fanatical and intolerant creed. But faith in Islam is a matter of conscience and conscience cannot be compelled," Prince Hassan said.

The Crown Prince said that the scriptures of Islam have much to tell about the importance of tolerance and coexistence.

"Mutual respect between and within human communities is fundamental to the Muslim World's view," said the Crown Prince, who also stressed Islam's ability to accommodate diversity.

Prince Hassan, who is accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf, Telecommunication Minister Jamal Sarairoh and an official delegation on his visit, praised Jordanian-Canadian relations saying that both countries respect democracy, pluralism and human rights.

"Through all the turmoil of the 20th century, Jordan has never been governed by radical politics. It has charted a consistently moderate and centrist course," said the Crown Prince, who added that this policy has been enhanced by a democratisation process which operates under constitutional guarantees that allow the participation of political parties in the political life of the country.

The Crown Prince said NGOs can play an important role in the development process that should encompass efforts to address health, educational and other human aspects.

Russia

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Lebed's performance put him in a commanding position in the horse-trading over the votes that went to him and seven other eliminated candidates behind him.

But in the hurly-burly of unpredictable Russian politics, there is no certainty voters will heed an appeal by Mr. Lebed to support one or the other of the finalists.

Mr. Lebed told Russian television he was well aware that his support could be pivotal for the second round, saying: "Yes, I generally catch on quickly."

Mr. Yeltsin was slightly ahead in counting of ballots from Sunday's voting. But he and Mr. Zuyuganov each

got only about a third of the vote and both need the support of Mr. Lebed, who has soared on the Russian political scene in the past year.

With 98 per cent of the vote counted, 35 per cent of voters were backing Mr. Yeltsin, whose reforms have also spawned crime and corruption. Mr. Zuyuganov, had 32 per cent, the central election commission reported.

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Jordan pins peace dividend on Israel ties

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan, with few tangible rewards from Middle East peace so far, hopes close ties with Israel's new government will give it the elusive "peace dividend".

While Middle East tension created by the new Israeli government could harm Jordan in the long-term, businessmen and officials see the prospect of short-term benefits they failed to gain under the former Labour government.

They privately say Jordan could even benefit from trouble between Palestinians and the new hardline government that would cause local and domestic

investors to focus on Jordan rather than the riskier Palestinian self-rule areas.

A flight of capital to Jordan from Palestinian self-rule areas by investors seeking a safe haven could boost foreign reserves and domestic investment.

Industrialists, who have sought business in the West Bank that Jordan ruled from 1950 until Israel captured it in 1967, hope an Israel keen to please its warmest Arab friend will ensure a better share in a West Bank market worth over \$1.6 billion annually.

"One of the biggest economic gains of peace will be opening the Palestinian market which is a natural market to Jordanian prod-

ucts," said Fakhri Bilbeisi, deputy head of the Jordanian Businessmen Association.

A slowing of peace talks with the Palestinians could also reassure those Jordanian officials who feared the self-rule areas would draw the lion's share of any peace windfall.

Although the business community is suspicious of Israel and reluctant to profit at Palestinian expense, Jordanian officials see foreign capital — primarily Israeli — tapping the country's lower costs through job generating joint-ventures.

Longer term, many argue that Jordan's challenge is creating a more competitive free market. But that change

will be more difficult if both local and foreign investor confidence is dealt a blow by the fading prospects of a full Arab-Israeli settlement.

Despite widespread grumbling of the minimal peace dividend since the treaty, partly reflecting high expectations, Jordanian businessmen had positioned themselves for a post-peace Middle East investment boom.

"In my view we will be totally influenced by what happens to the Palestinians and any deterioration on that front will put Jordan in a slow economic path," Mr. Bilbeisi said.

Pakistan unveils heavy tax budget

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Amid noisy opposition protests, the Pakistan government has unveiled a 500.2 billion rupee (\$14.2 billion) budget which includes heavy new taxes to combat a deficit.

The new taxes are expected to raise 40.8 billion rupees (\$1.1 billion) during fiscal 1996-97 starting in July, minister of state for finance Makhdoom Shahabuddin told parliament. To meet a 60.8 billion rupees overall budgetary deficit, the government also plans to mobilise 20 billion rupees through bank borrowing, he said.

Mr. Shahabuddin said the budget deficit would be reduced to four per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) during the next year, down from five per cent of GDP in fiscal 1995-96.

The government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has allocated 16 billion rupees more for defence expenditure — during 1996-97, up from 115.3 billion rupees in the outgoing year, he said.

"We have been able to contain inflation but it needs further lowering," Mr. Shahabuddin said.

Officials have claimed the prevailing rate of inflation is around 11 per cent, compared to last year's 13 per cent. But independent estimates have put it at about twice the official figure.

Referring to new taxation, Mr. Shahabuddin said sacrifice is needed for a better future for the Pakistani nation.

Mr. Shahabuddin announced that the government had decided not to withdraw an existing 10 per cent regulatory duty on imports and also deferred a plan to bring down tariff ceilings from 65 to 55 per cent.

"Our major expenditure is debt repayments," which have increased every year with Pakistan's total external debts estimated now at about \$23 billion.

The debt-service burden will be around 186 billion rupees in 1996-97, Mr. Shahabuddin said.

Ms. Bhutto's government has focussed on balancing income and expenditure in accordance with guidelines from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) since coming to power in October 1993.

Mr. Shahabuddin said Pakistan firmly believed in macro-economic stability and economic reforms, and "intends to adhere to agreements with IMF".

Economic commentators and the opposition have blamed the government of burdening the common man with new taxes instead of reducing its own "wasteful" spending, in order to meet IMF demand for cutting the budget deficit.

Israeli economy seen headed for a slowdown

By Tova Cohen
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Inflation is heating up, interest rates are almost certain to rise and Israel's economy appears headed for a slowdown, economists said Sunday.

"There's no choice. A recession is needed," said the front-page headline of Israel's biggest daily Yedioth Ahronoth.

The newspaper's economics editor Sever Plocher warned readers: "Tighten your seat belts and watch your pockets carefully. The economy is landing on a recession — a landing that won't be soft."

The government Friday reported that consumer prices climbed 1.7 per cent in May, following a similar rise in April. May's index was half a percentage point above market forecasts of a 1.1 to 1.3 per cent increase.

Inflation is now running at an annual rate of 15 per cent, well above last year's 8.1 per cent and the government's 1996 target of 8-10 per cent. Economists agree that a slowdown in economic growth, although not necessarily a recession, is on the horizon.

Next week the Bank of Israel will announce interest rates for June. Economists say it's not a question of whether the bank will raise rates but by how much.

"With everyone now talking about 14 per cent inflation, the central bank has no

choice but to raise rates. The question is whether it will compromise or go for an increase of one percentage point or more, which is what it should have done a few months ago," said Jonathan Katz, senior economist at Capital Holdings Consultants.

Nadine Bandot Trajtenberg, an economist at Bank Hapoalim, predicted the central bank would raise rates by 0.5 to 0.7 percentage point.

In late May, the central bank hiked its key lending rate by 0.7 percentage point to an annualised 15.5 per cent.

Other economists forecast a rate hike of one percentage point or more.

"I'm on the lower end (of forecasts). I think there are other indications the economy is slowing down, such as money supply (which fell 0.7 per cent in May)," Ms. Bandot-Trajtenberg said.

The central bank alone cannot control inflation. Economists say the new government, led by Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu, must tighten fiscal policy, and a cut in public spending will lead to a slowdown.

U.S. diplomat outlines several measures to improve Jordan's standing among international investors

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S. remains fully supportive of Jordan's efforts to improve its economy but it would also like to see the Kingdom undertaking several measures that would better its standing among international investors, according to a senior U.S. diplomat.

These measures, said Gary A. Grappo, counsellor for economic and commercial affairs at the U.S. Embassy, include the quick adoption of an anti-trust (or anti-monopoly) law and decontrol of prices, legislation to protect intellectual property rights and the passage of new laws on companies and the Amman Financial Market (AFM).

Mr. Grappo, who was addressing the Amman West Rotary Club, acknowledged that Jordan had taken "very positive steps towards improving the economic environment" — including the adoption of the investment promotion law and amendments to the tax legislation as well as moves towards commercialising telecommunications and electricity generation.

The additional measures called for, Mr. Grappo said, should help further Jordan's efforts to invite foreign investment.

"Price controls are antithetical to free markets and foreign investment prefers free markets," he said.

In the realm of intellectual property rights (IPR), Jordan's current law violates most international norms for IPR protection and is discouraging foreign investors," said the diplomat, who took office at the U.S. Embassy shortly before Amman hosted the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit in October last year.

Jordan also needs transparency in laws related to companies and the stock market and this could be achieved when the Kingdom adopts a new

Companies Law and a legislation related to the AFM, he said.

"Let us not forget Jordan is in the international market for investors' dollars," Mr. Grappo told the Rotary Club audience. "It competes with nations around the world for investors looking for places to put their money, their factories and plants, and their office."

"Jordan is the product and Jordanians must be prepared to market and promote that product. Jordanian laws should compare favourably with those of other nations around the world competing for investment dollars, and especially with those of countries in the region," he added.

Mr. Grappo revealed that 50 or so American companies have sent teams to Jordan since the MENA summit to explore business opportunities in energy, telecommunications, tourism development and industrial and consumer products among others.

"Many are coming because they just want to know more about Jordan and the region and have no specific plans yet," he said. "Others are actively pursuing business opportunities."

There are three main reasons behind American companies' interest in Jordan, according to Mr. Grappo. These are:

— "The peace process and Jordan's historic decision to become a full player in it have convinced them that there is sufficient stability in the region and in Jordan to begin thinking about doing business here."

— "They believe that there are real opportunities for doing business and making money here."

— "Jordan itself is making measures to attract and promote international business and investment in the country."

The U.S. diplomat recounted a few of the developments related to Jordan's economy since the MENA summit.

These included the launch of the Middle East and Mediterranean Tourism Association, the finalisation of the articles of agreement of the Middle East Development Bank prior to presentation to the U.N., the formation of the Regional Business Council and the establishment of the permanent office in Amman of the Regional Economic Development Working Group.

"The United States has played and will continue to play a strong supportive role in these institutions," said Mr. Grappo. "They are important to us in helping solidify the progress we have made in bringing peace to the region."

In the bilateral context with Jordan, the U.S. has undertaken several steps to help the Kingdom's economy, he said, citing the write-off of about \$700 million in Amman's official debts to Washington, the increase (from \$30 million to \$40 million) in commodity credits, \$10 million for food purchases, \$1.8 million in grants for feasibility studies on expanding Aqaba airport, a fibre-optic linkage between Amman and Tel Aviv and along the Jordan Valley, a data communications system and a hazardous waste management facility in Aqaba.

The Trade and Development Agency, a U.S. government arm which provided the grants, "is aggressively searching for other areas where it can fund feasibility studies," Mr. Grappo added.

He noted that the U.S. had offered to negotiate a bilateral investment treaty and an intellectual property rights agreement with Jordan. After some more consultations, formal negotiations could be launched soon, he added.

The U.S. official described the outcome of a recent meeting between Jordanian and American officials as successful since both sides presented their views and said a second round of talks would be held this summer.

Mr. Grappo lamented that "very few" American exporters to Jordan or Jordanian importers from the U.S. were taking advantage of the financing opportunities offered by the Eximbank and said Washington was inviting Amman government officials to discuss "how Jordan can take greater advantage of Exim financing programmes."

In conclusion, said Mr. Grappo, "despite the challenges facing Jordanians, I'm optimistic about Jordan and America's close relationship with Jordan."

"I tell American businessmen who visit me everyday that the Jordan of the year 2000 will be a much changed and even better one than they see today...."

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HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JUNE 18, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Listen to as many good friends as you can at this time and improve your future. Try not to irritate your mate this evening.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Be with persons of activity today and talk with highbys about important matters. Avoid a grumpy person tonight or there could be difficulties.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can handle your finest ideas at different outlets today, but avoid career activities later this evening which could be very tiring.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You had better make slight changes at this time with a fellow associate and you can improve matters later in the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have an opportunity to make a good friend and become a fine ally for the days to come. Don't disagree with your loved ones.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Add more mechanisms which can make your home function more efficiently. Gain the cooperation of a fellow associate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can be out looking into new outlets during the daytime today and be more interesting in the modern methods of operation.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get busy this morning at making your home more charming and livable. Later this evening invite interesting people in and entertain them well.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are thinking brilliantly and you can plan the new week's activities very well so that you can be very successful in your duties.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Study your property today and see how best to improve it so that it becomes more valuable. Add to existing assets so you can handle the lean times.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have fine ideas for attaining the wishes which mean much to you today, so go after them early. This is a profitable day.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Plan how to get into a more modern mode of living and be happier and more successful. Be dramatic and please a loved one.

Birthstone of June: Emerald — Citrine

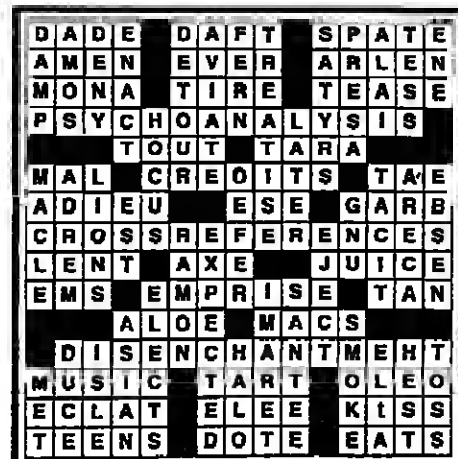
THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

- 1 Maiden
- 5 Region in Germany
- 10 Baking place
- 14 European capital
- 15 Pueblo pal
- 16 Abominable
- 17 Impediments
- 20 Eternal
- 21 Texas town
- 22 — longa, vita brevis
- 23 Plus
- 24 Zenanas
- 28 Mine entrance
- 29 "Harper Valley —"
- 32 "That's —" (Martin hit)
- 33 Bikini tops
- 34 Observed
- 35 Fare to there and back
- 38 Otherwise
- 39 Eject
- 40 Singer Judd
- 41 Collection
- 42 — dieu (kneeling bench)
- 43 Emphasize
- 44 Plant with fronds
- 45 Pasture sound
- 46 Cat, goat or rabbit
- 49 Shares
- 54 Complaining
- 56 Included with
- 57 Perfume
- 58 Mr. Kazan
- 59 Confederate soldiers
- 60 Join
- 61 Ceases

DOWN

- 1 Asea
- 2 Italian wine center
- 3 Ghetto
- 4 A few
- 5 Farm machines
- 6 Wrong
- 7 Noises
- 8 Breakfast favorite
- 9 Certain award recipient
- 10 Convex molding
- 11 Immoral practice
- 12 Wapitis
- 13 Loch — monster
- 18 Accused
- 19 Appetite
- 23 Conform
- 24 Rabbits
- 25 Soap plant
- 26 Chase out of bed
- 27 Sea bird
- 28 Meet the day
- 29 Tea
- 30 Swarms
- 31 Those opposed
- 33 Bear
- 34 War memento
- 36 CA city
- 37 Entirely
- 42 Beautiful young girl
- 43 Post office employee
- 44 Laps
- 45 Clergyman's residence
- 46 Distant
- 47 Honor
- 48 Untuous
- 49 Liquid measure
- 50 Sheltered
- 51 Oven
- 52 OK town
- 53 Seven
- 55 Army title; abbr.



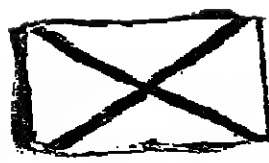
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Do other women sneak in and use our shower while we're gone or do all those hair care products belong just to you?"

Peanuts





Futures trading planned for Kuwaiti bourse

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) plans to launch a pilot scheme to trade futures in local shares soon, becoming the first Gulf bourse to offer this type of investment instrument, its head has said.

The new futures market is among several initiatives, including opening up trade to foreigners aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the Kuwait Stock Exchange, the exchange's general manager, Hisham Al Otaibi said.

He said the futures market would start as a six-month pilot scheme to test the response of local investors.

"I don't want to be pinned down to a certain date," he said, adding the trial scheme was "not far off."

Futures are financial instruments which allow investors to buy or sell shares at a set price on a specified future date. The instruments can be used to protect an investor's portfolio against future risks, such as a sudden downturn in share prices.

"They will have the effect of stabilising the market and allowing investors to minimise risk," Mr. Otaibi said.

"The market here is a cash market, so we need to introduce more instruments."

He added, "That's the normal evolution of the market."

Electronic trading, introduced at the end of 1995, has "made our market more transparent and efficient and given more confidence," Mr. Otaibi said.

It is also one of the first steps towards opening up the market to greater foreign participation because information can now be transferred quickly and efficiently worldwide, he said.

He added that a paper on the legal changes required to open up the market was being drawn up by the commerce and industry ministry.

At present, foreigners are allowed to invest in three Kuwait listed mutual funds, but are not allowed to hold

stocks directly.

The Kuwaiti stock market is one of the most active Arab markets with the value of shares traded in the first five months of 1996 reaching about \$5 billion, Mr. Otaibi said.

"So I think by the end of the year we might reach up to \$10 billion," he said.

This compares with trading values of about \$1.5 billion in 1994 and \$6.5 billion in 1995.

He said trading had been boosted by the strong response by investors to the sale of government shares and confidence in the government's handling of the economy.

Traders see oil prices slumping \$3 by end of year

SINGAPORE (R) — World oil prices could plummet by \$3.00 per barrel by the end of the year following OPEC's decision to raise its output to accommodate the return of Iraqi oil after nearly a six-year ban, oil traders have said.

They said U.S. benchmark crude oil prices should hold steady around current levels of \$20.00/\$20.50 per barrel until Iraqi oil hits the market in August.

Most analysts expected crude oil futures prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) could then begin a slump to \$17.00 per barrel or less.

Low U.S. inventory levels and stronger gasoline demand during the U.S. summer driving season would likely support prices for the next few months, traders said.

U.S. crude oil stocks at end-May were 15.5 million barrels below the same period in 1995 and gasoline inventories were two million barrels less than year-ago levels.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has raised its production ceiling to 25,033 million barrels per day (bpd) from 24.52 million bpd, after allocating an extra 800,000 bpd to Iraq and removing the 287,000 bpd for Gabon, which announced it had quit OPEC.

Oil traders in Asia said they were disappointed that OPEC had failed to address perennial key issues such as quota compliance, but there was no immediate price reaction in the region.

"The market is steady because OPEC's agreement was seen as the last of the bearish news. The market now looks to U.S. oil stock data, in particular gasoline, for direction," the oil trader said.

Like others, he expected that a strong U.S. economy, reflected by the robust May U.S. employment data, as well as firmer demand during the summer Olympic games would support gasoline prices.

The near-term outlook for Asia's oil market was positive as demand had been healthy enough to absorb supplies, traders said.

Asian and Mideast crude markets have been well-supported by steady Japanese and South Korean buying, especially of lighter crudes, as customers scramble to rebuild stocks depleted by the colder-than-expected winter.

Brokers expected the market would likely remain quiet in the near term as traders reassessed world supply and demand.

December crude oil futures prices on NYMEX are about \$2 less than July contracts, showing the market's lack of confidence over OPEC's ability to stick to its recently announced quotas and scepticism that

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Egypt opens door to private sector to build four desert highways

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt is to allow the private sector to build four desert highways, including two running the length of the country parallel to the Nile River, the newspaper Al Akhbar has said.

The cabinet agreed to the projects, the government daily said, adding that projects to build three electrical stations at a total cost of \$1.4 billion will also be given to private investors.

One of the highways will run from Alexandria to the Mediterranean coast to Faiyum, 240 kilometres to the south, it said.

A second will run 850 kilometres from Faiyum to Aswan, Egypt's southernmost town, creating a highway running the entire length of the country.

Another route running 260 kilometres will link the southern town of Dairut with Farafra oasis in the Western Desert.

The fourth, 500 kilometres long, will connect Kharga oasis, also in the Western Desert, with Sharq Al Awaat.

Contracts for the roads, the first to be built by the private sector, will be open to international bids, the paper said.

Al Akhbar said that two electricity stations are to be built by the private sector on Egypt's Red Sea coast, while a third is for the Mediterranean shore.

The projects are among Egypt's first moves to open infrastructure projects to the private sector.

BUSINESS

A review of news from the Arabic press

Higher fees for work permits are under review at Prime Ministry

UNDER A draft regulation submitted by the Ministry of Labour to the Council of Ministers, the annual fees paid by non-Jordanian workers will be increased. The ministry expects the Cabinet to discuss the draft regulation and approve it by next week at the latest.

Labourers of Arab nationalities will have to pay JD 25 per year to get a permit to work in the agricultural sector and JD 150 in other sectors. Non-Arabs seeking permits to work in the agricultural sector will have to pay JD 150 whereas for all other sectors the annual permit fee will be JD 350.

Under the present regulation, Arab labourers in the farming sector have to pay JD 10 annually and JD 100 for working in other fields. Permit fees for non-Arabs are JD 50 for farming work and JD 150 for all other sectors.

The draft regulation imposes a minimum monthly fine of JD 50, but not exceeding JD 100, to be paid by employers for employing non-Jordanians in violation of the articles of the regulation. The fine, which applies for a month or a part of, cannot be reduced under any circumstances or for any reason. Under the present regulation, the fine is not less than JD 50 and not more than JD 75.

Hadid discounts higher interest as main reason for AFM slump

JAWAD HADID, general manager of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), said that the monetary policy of the Central Bank was one of the main reasons for the slump in the Amman Financial Market (AFM). Learning at Al Fatah Club, Mr. Hadid recalled that the stock exchange witnessed a sudden boom from 1991 and that share prices rose to astronomical levels for three consecutive years before the start of a gradual decline in the prices and in the volume of trade.

"An economic boom must be followed by a recession to correct the unusual upsurge during the flourishing years," Mr. Hadid pointed out. Such a situation carries psychological effects which affect economic behaviour by having people refrain from spending and moving towards saving and, consequently, deepening the recession.

"The behaviour at the AFM has never historically been affected by interest rates at all," Mr. Hadid stressed, noting that the stock exchange will recover and flourish during the coming years but not like the years of 1991, 1992 and 1993. He described the three years as being an "unusual historic upsurge" which was caused by the Gulf crisis and which does not always recur.

The prominent banker went a step further by describing the investors at the secondary market of the AFM as not real investors in the sense that they do not pump new money in projects. "What takes place there is the exchange of shares between one investor and another at prices that move among them," he indicated. "Investment at the primary market activates economic growth but investment at the secondary market is only an encouraging factor to invest in the primary market."

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 17/6/1996

Currency	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	0.7050	0.7100
Swiss Franc	1.0417	1.0541
Deutsche Mark	0.4656	0.4681
Swiss Franc	0.6657	0.6680
French Franc	0.1373	0.1380
Japanese Yen	0.0079	0.0080
Dutch Guilder	0.4150	0.4180
Italian Lira	0.0050	0.0051
Other Currencies	Date: 17/6/1996	
Currency	Buy	Sell
Bahraini Dinar	1.9650	1.9780
Lebanese Lira	0.244555	0.245025
Saudi Riyal	0.1870	0.1895
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3310	2.3670
Qatari Riyal	0.1985	0.1995
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.6350	1.6410
UAE Dirham	0.1955	0.1955
Greek Drachma	0.0035	0.0035

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.		
\$1.00 costs	1.3656/66	Canadian dollar
	1.5176/86	German marks
	1.6998/08	Dutch guilders
	1.2496/06	Swiss francs
	31.22/26	Belgian francs
	5.1494/44	French francs
	1539.4/0.9	Italian lire
	108.85/95	Japanese Yen
	6.6630/30	Swedish crowns
	6.5120/70	Norwegian crowns
	5.8517/67	Danish crowns
	1.4080/90	Singapore dollars
	0.7910/15	Australian dollars
	7.7318/23	Hong Kong dollars
One Sterling	\$1.5436/46	
Gold (ounce)	\$384.90/385.40	

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JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
BANKING SECTOR									
ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 17/06/1996									
MARKET	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	MARKET CAP.	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
280,000	205,000	ARAB BANK	12.0	1.40	1	151	2,900	2,900	0.00
4,780	4,180	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	12.8	1.35	5	116	4,983	4,983	0.00
3,800	3,250	JOR. COMM. BK.	12.1	0.00	9	80	65	65	0.00
1,510	1,030	JOR. INVEST. SEC.	66.3	0.00	4	23,976	458.86	458.86	0.00
3,700	2,210	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.1	6.30	8	3,850	765	765	0.00
2,900	2,600	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	1	1,000	2,900	2,900	0.00
1,330	920	JOR. CREDIT BANK	5.6	0.00	17	16,250	15.44	15.44	0.00
4,180	3,300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	18.4	0.00	7	1,385	3,301	3,301	0.00
6,000	1,900	JOR. ECONOMIC BK.	9.1	0.00	1	250	475	475	0.00
3,860	2,420	JOR. SECUR. CO. (REIT)	14.7	0.00	3	100	3,860	3,860	0.00
1,350	1,430	AMMAN BANK INT.	9	0.00	21	2,740	1,350	1,350	0.00
1,330	1,060	PHILADEL. DEV. BK.	9	0.00	27	6,800	7509	7509	0.00
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 173.72 ACBS: -0.26 92 7854 1,281,49									
3,350	2,700	GEN. ARAB SECUR.	22.8	0.00	2	140	374	374	0.00
2,410	2,200	JOR. FINANCE INSR.	6.4	8.89	3	600	1,330	1,330	0.00
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 123.39 ACBS: -0.15 7 822 1,692									
1,900	1,530	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.7	7.79	29	5620	8684	8684	0.00
1,890	1,400	JOR. TELECOM. CO.	8.5	0.00	2	80	65	65	0.00
2,860	1,390	JOR. PORTFOLIO	0.00	0.00	4	1,535	1,971	1,971	0.00
3,860	3,070	AMMAN SECUR. INT. SEC.	19.4	8.35	1	100	215	215	0.00
2,900	1,900	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	1	1,000	2,900	2,900	0.00
2,540	1,870	UNIF. SEC. CO.	10.5	0.00	16	5,250	1,051.3	1,051.3	0.00
1,200	820	UNION BANK INT.	0.00	0.00	3	100	1,200	1,200	0.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 112.42 ACBS: -0.12 43 1,365 21,794									
1,250	1,270	ATTARQUEH	0.00	0.00	3	2750	3438	3438	0.00
3,950	1,710	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	15	21,000	2,210	2,210	0.00
3,550	2,900	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	1	100	254	254	0.00
3,950	4,750	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	7	3,850	1,557	1,557	0.00
10,120	8,000	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	10	10,120	6,061	6,061	0.00
3,500	6,980	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	7	504	3,602	3,602	0.00
5,390	3,410	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	12	21,000	1,063.3	1,063.3	0.00
1,530	1,000	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	1	1,000	1,530	1,530	0.00
6,220	3,800	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	18	41,000	1,571.1	1,571.1	0.00
740	450	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	24	26,000	1,422.0	1,422.0	0.00
3,900	1,180	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	13	9,500	1,248.1	1,248.1	0.00
1,450	1,230	NATIONAL SECUR. CO.	12.0	0.00	4	611	858	858	0.00
2,620	1,060	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	48	14,300	1,544.2	1,544.2	0.00
1,240	830	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	17	6145	6,997	6,997	0.00
5,070	3,580	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	3	200	1,388	1,388	0.00
1,770	1,950	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	23	9,990	9,748	9,748	0.00
2,380	1,080	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	69	20,000	487.2	487.2	0.00
3,450	2,380	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	1	400	592	592	0.00
3,280	1,390	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	3	1,250	1,719	1,719	0.00
2,600	1,000	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	17	7,400	6,955	6,955	0.00
2,500	1,700	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	1	3,450	1,993.1	1,993.1	0.00
1,560	1,180	JOR. SECUR. CO.	20.2	0.00	9	4,550	2,171.1	2,171.1	0.00
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.64 ACBS: -0.64 306 1,560,21 28,945									
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 142.26 ACBS: -0.40 468 249,260 4,223,47									
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 17/06/1996									
MARKET	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	MARKET CAP.	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
850	700	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	15	26,500	1,669.9	1,669.9	0.00
2,000	1,600	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	16	6,930	1,715	1,715	0.00
1,410	630	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	16	11,450	825.5	825.5	0.00
1,690	340	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	2	2,230	725	725	0.00
1,630	630	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	16	11,450	825.5	825.5	0.00
1,930	1,380	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	13	7,000	1,103.7	1,103.7	0.00
850	520	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	2	250	211	211	0.00
1,180	600	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	5	1,750	1,050	1,050	0.00
1,100	700	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	17	11,050	818.6	818.6	0.00
1,150	800	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	22	15,600	1,356.4	1,356.4	0.00
1,030	650	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	16	10,330	713.3	713.3	0.00
1,030	650	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	5	2,750	963	963	0.00
1,030	650	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	8	6,183	2,214	2,214	0.00
1,030	650	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	7	705	628	628	0.00
1,030	650	JOR. SECUR. CO.	16.9	0.00	28	26,750	1,814.0	1,814.0	0.00
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 142.26 ACBS: -0.40 468 249,260 4,223,47									
* New 12 months low									
* Listed during the past 12 months									
* P/E ratio is 100 or more									
* Negative P/E									
* Warning is zero or N/A for the most recent year									

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Euro 96

Croatia relax as rivals enter qualifying maze

MANCHESTER (R) — Only Croatia, Romania and Turkey can throw away their calculators and ignore the complex qualifying choices going into the final round of Euro 96 group matches this week.

Croatia are able to relax as the solitary side to reach the last eight, while two defeats in two matches have condemned the Romanians and Turks to shadowy roles in the main drama. The rest are somewhere in between, retaining at least a mathematical chance of reaching the quarter-finals but forced to wait until Tuesday and Wednesday for all to be settled.

Games in the same group will kick off at identical times to avoid any suggestion of mutual back-scratching and, in terms of potential big-name disappointment, the most significant encounters appear to be at Wembley and Old Trafford.

Hosts England may have cheered their supporters with a 2-0 win over Scotland on Saturday, but would appreciate some more magic from Paul Gascoigne to make absolutely certain of qualification against the Netherlands in Group A on Tuesday.

The Dutch are not currently the happiest of teams, yet still have the potential to puncture English optimism swiftly and effectively. Should the Dutch win, the Swiss could yet sneak back into the frame by beating Scotland. Manchester will stage an equally tense evening when Germany face Italy, with the onus on the Italians to rescue their coach Arrigo Sacchi from public outrage.

The Czech Republic's surprise 2-1 win on Friday has left the Italians with no margin for error in Group C against a German side who are proving adept at punishing any hesitancy in opposition ranks.

With the mood darkening in the Russian camp and Juergen Klinsmann in irresistible form, the odds must be on the Germans and Czechs going through.

The situation is also tight in Group B with the possibility of Bulgaria, France and Spain finishing on five points and facing qualification on goal difference.

France meet Bulgaria in Newcastle, while Spain, two points adrift of their two rivals, take on the already eliminated Romanians in Leeds. Champions Denmark must beat eliminated Turkey by three clear goals in Group D and hope that Croatia finish with a 100 percent record by overcoming Portugal.

Tuesday's Euro 96 schedule on JTV

* France - Bulgaria	6:30 p.m.	channel 2
* Romania - Spain	6:30 p.m.	channel 2
* England - Netherlands	9:30 p.m.	channel 1
* Scotland - Switzerland	9:30 p.m.	channel 1



Three local boys run together with Bulgarian soccer players (left to right) Ilian Kirilakov, Krasimir Balakov and Hristo Stoichkov during a practice session of Bulgarian team. Bulgaria will play against France Tuesday in a European soccer Championship game (Reuters photo)

France out to right a wrong

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Unbeaten France have the chance to right what they consider a grave wrong when they meet Bulgaria in their final Group B match here Tuesday.

It was two and a half years ago when the French team were last beaten and it was the Bulgarians who inflicted it.

More importantly, Bulgaria's win in Paris put France out of the 1994 World Cup finals and sparked a crisis in French football.

Since then French coach Aimé Jacquet, brought in after the Bulgarian debacle, has gone 25 straight matches without defeat and his "junior" team is one of the Euro 96 favourites.

But despite the undoubted talent — most of the team will be playing Serie A next season — the French have still to shine here.

A costly 1-1 draw on Saturday when they let Spain draw level only five minutes from time followed an unconvincing win against

Romania in their tournament opener.

It was a bitter blow for the French who, if they had managed to hold on against

the Spaniards, would have become the first team to go into the quarter-finals.

Instead they have an all-deciding show down against Bulgaria and their in-form striker Hristo Stoichkov.

"I am disappointed. We made numerous chances but were unable to take them and our finishing is something of a worry."

"But we'll look forward to the next game. This is a young team really looking to the future and they will continue to improve," vows Jacquet.

Again much will hinge on the performances of Youri Djorkaeff and Zinedine Zidane around who the midfield-attack is built.

Djorkaeff has yet to stamp his authority on the championships and although showing flashes of brilliance he has also missed chances when it looked easier to score.

Jacquet can not be happy that his side have managed only two goals in two matches and one of them was thanks to a goalkeeping blunder.

While France is building for the future, Bulgaria is giving what is probably a final hooray for its aging

stars.

Again Bulgaria success depends on their volatile goalscorer Hristo Stoichkov whose ability to strike from anywhere has made him one of the most feared attackers in the world.

It was the swaggering Parma player who put paid to France's World Cup hopes nearly three years ago. Stoichkov has already scored twice in Euro 96 and would have got a third in the Spanish match but for the fact he was ruled off-side.

Television replays proved his goal was good. The problem was Stoichkov was simply so quick off the mark that the linesman did not believe it was possible so he flagged off-side.

France have Laurent Blanc, who preferred Barcelona over Manchester United for next season, and Marcel Desailly at the centre of their defence and the two will be fully tested by Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov.



Danish goal keeper Peter Schmeichel gestures after Davor Suker of Croatia lobbed the ball over him and scored his team's third goal during their European Soccer Championship match, June 16. Croatia won the match 3-0 (Reuters photo)

Croats show true potential at last

SHEFFIELD (R) — Croatia finally justified their billing as one of the most exciting teams of Euro 96 Sunday — just as they were about to be labelled the tournament's biggest bores.

Croatia had spent much of a game and a half with seven or eight players behind the ball. Passes were monotonously made sideways when they had possession.

But in the second half of Sunday's Group D game with champion Denmark, the Croatia that everyone had been waiting to see suddenly emerged from its shell.

The Croats, who struggled to beat Turkey in their first game and were 0-0 at half-time against Denmark, scored three stylish goals without reply.

Striker Davor Suker also revived memories of Pele at his best when he tried to lob Denmark goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel from near the

halfway line.

"I could see Schmeichel was off his line and I've seen from other matches that he likes to do the same thing. The shot went amazingly well but he got back very quickly and tipped it over the top."

"I have tried a lot of times to score a goal like this. I have done it once in a match in Croatia but not in an international game."

Suker also scored one of the competition's best goals when he chipped the ball over the hapless Schmeichel in the last minute.

"It was the best game I have ever played," he said.

Almost inevitably, Croatia coach Miroslav Blazevic was asked after the game if he considered his team to be the "Brazil of Europe", a tag which has so far been attached to the Portuguese.

"There is only one Brazil," he replied, adding: "I think we gave a good

footballing performance that was enjoyed by the world."

But it was not clear whether Croatia will turn on the style from the start of their games or if they will return to their patient but rather dull football.

Suker promised Croatia's philosophy was to attack. "In the first half, we wanted to attack but we couldn't. It was very difficult and the Laudrup brothers (Brian and Michael) were playing very well," he said.

But defender Slaven Bilic gave a different version.

"We waited for them to come to us," he said of the first half. In the second half, we scored three wonderful goals and I think people will change their opinion about us. "We had a lot of criticism after the first game but now the team has showed the world what we can do," added midfielder Robert Prosinecki.

Hagi gets last chance to show the world his 'genius' today

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Gheorghe Hagi has his last chance to show the world just how good he can be when he plays against Spain here on Tuesday.

Fading star Hagi, whose genius with a football came to marvellous fruition during the 1994 World Cup, was a spent force in his first two Euro 96 matches.

Romania were dreadfully unlucky against Bulgaria when a clear goal, which bounced down over the goal-line the crossbar and out again, was disallowed.

But had Hagi shown his sparkling form of USA '94, Romania might still have gone on to win and through to the quarter-finals.

Hagi has shown major schizophrenia in his performances for club and country.

His outings have been split between superb ones for Romania and terrible ones by his clubs, including Real Madrid,

Brescia and Barcelona.

Now 31, Hagi, even if he went to the next World Cup in France in 1998, can hardly be expected to improve, so Eiland Road is the venue of his final fling.

When on form, his artistry would even make people with no interest in football impressed by his play.

He can cut a defence in half with accurate passing, be can beat defenders, can shoot from all sorts of seemingly impossible angles, and can do with his left foot things that most other internationals can only dream about.

Against Spain, Hagi might at least perform a few of the touches which have made him one of the most watchable players of his generation.

It would be a fitting end for a genius who never got enough time to shine.

McAllister awaits Switzerland match

BIRMINGHAM (AFP) — Gary McAllister missed the crucial penalty against England on Saturday but such is the respect for the Scottish captain that his colleagues cheered him after the match.

The miss probably ended Scotland's interest in Euro 96 but his team-mates have been rallying around the inspirational Leeds midfielder who has been the country's most influential player for two years.

"After the match we gave him a resounding cheer and were chanting his name," said Rangers striker Ally McCoist.

"He was slightly embarrassed but we wanted him to know how we feel about him and for him."

"I'm rooming with him but there is nothing I can say to him, or any of the lads. We know how he feels. Nothing can change what happened but hopefully he can skipper us to victory on Tuesday."

McAllister says the traumatic experience will not affect his game.

"I've been taking penalties for as long as I can remember, since boys club football in fact. My first instinct is to go and take them and I'll carry on," he said.

"I didn't sleep much on Saturday night reliving the match and obviously the penalty. I made a wrong decision."

McAllister was the dynamo behind Scotland's qualification, his leadership qualities, drive and vision giving focus to an otherwise limited collection of footballers.

McAllister is at his best when he has a point to prove and the Swiss would be foolish to underestimate his determination to make amends.

"Now I owe Scotland 90 minutes against Switzerland and I know I don't have much time to mope about. I'm the captain and I have to get myself up for it. I can't wait for the next game now," he warned.

England out to rewrite the history books

LONDON (AFP) — History is against England when they take on the Dutch at Wembley in their final Euro 96 group match on Tuesday.

Holland have lost just one of their last 20 games against British and Irish sides.

But both teams seem at last to be getting into their stride, so even though a draw would see both through to the quarter-finals, the game looks set to be a cracker.

The Dutch need to win to top the group and stay at Wembley. If they do, they are likely to face either Spain or Bulgaria. The team that finishes second will probably meet France in Liverpool.

Jordi Cruyff, who scored in Holland's 2-0 victory over Switzerland on Thursday, says: "Holland is not a team that goes for a draw. We have to attack."

England coach Terry Venables also says his team will play to win — "as we always do".

Privately the Dutch feel that England are there to be beaten.

They were unimpressed with England's 1-1 draw against Switzerland. "Very bad", was how midfielder star Ronald De Boer described it.

He is convinced that Cruyff, Dennis Bergkamp and Peter Hoesstra have the pace to turn the likes of Stuart Pearce and Tony Adams.

The match-up between Arsenal colleagues Bergkamp and Adams could be the most interesting of the game, presuming Adams recovers in time from injury.

The English may revert to playing four defenders to counter Holland's two wingers, Jamie Redknapp, who helped revive England in the second half of their 2-0 victory over Scotland on Saturday, misses the game through injury.

The Dutch will be relieved that England use only one out-and-out striker, Alan Shearer. Holland have most trouble against sides that use three forwards to disrupt their patient build-up from the back — as the Swiss did successfully in the first half or Thursday.

England's main danger man, midfield genius Paul Gascoigne, is unlikely to be man marked. Instead, Clarence Seedorf and Ronald De Boer — both highly skilful players themselves — are likely to deal with him depending where he pops up.

England received a confidence boost from their win over the Scots, thanks to Alan Shearer's second goal of the tournament and Gascoigne's first — a beauty.

After the game bookmakers William Hill cut England's odds to win Euro 96 from 9-1 to 11-2. The players had felt under pressure from press and public after their failure against the Swiss and their pre-tournament trip to Hong Kong, where they were photographed drinking heavily in a nightclub.

The Dutch camp has grown turbulent only in the past few days.

Manager Guus Hiddink sent midfielder Edgar Davids home after Davids complained to the press about being dropped against Switzerland.

Seedorf has spoken out in sympathy with his chum. But it is a rare Dutch side that has no rows going on, and Hiddink will hope that the affair will spark some passion in his Hitherto clinical team.

London's police will be out in full force, as apart from the England-Scotland game, this encounter has probably the most hoodlums' potential of Euro 96.

Injury inspires Becker

LONDON (R) — A little over a week ago Boris Becker was watching the French Open on television, forced to the sidelines because of a torn thigh muscle.

The frustration of missing the chance for another Grand Slam title left the German hungry for success and in his first tournament back Becker won his fourth London grass court championship on Sunday, defeating long-time rival Stefan Edberg 6-4 7-6.

Now Becker wants another Wimbledon title. "I basically worked eight weeks for nothing," Becker said of missing the French Open.

"Watching it on television and seeing that it was by far the quickest clay court tournament in recent years, made it even harder for me."

"But the pain I felt made me want to play tournaments so much more. It made me eager."

That keenness is not good news for his rivals.

The three times Wimbledon champion is certain to be again at the forefront of contenders for the title, along with champion Pete Sampras, who chose to miss Queen's Club, Goran Ivanisevic, Michael Stich and Andre Agassi.

Becker, 28, the second seed, did not lose a set all week and beat Edberg with a display of power.

The triumph came on the eleventh anniversary of his first tournament success. It was in 1985 as a 17-year-

old that Becker announced his arrival by winning at Queen's Club and he immediately went on to take the first of his Wimbledon titles.

"I feel like I'm giving myself a chance again at Wimbledon being in such good form," said Becker, who won his first Grand Slam title since 1991 at the Australian Open in January.

"In a way I'm a bit surprised to be playing that well so quickly after being injured. To win at Queen's is a big help for my confidence, to know all the shots in your game are working well."

Becker's romance with the All England Club has not diminished with the passing years.

"It doesn't matter who is number one in the world. Wimbledon is always the highlight of my season. I try to gear up for that in the most perfect way," Becker, who last won there in 1989, said.

Both Becker and Edberg, who is retiring from competition play at the end of the year, have hit top form this week. Becker in his first tournament after injury, Edberg after a slow start to the year.

It was the German's 25th win in 35 clashes with Edberg dating back to 1984 and his third straight success over the Swede at Queen's Club.

In 1988, Becker won and was also triumphant in the semifinals in 1990 but both times Edberg went on to win Wimbledon.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA Sharone Stone & William Baldwin in Sliver Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL: 666238 PLAZA Gerard Depardieu in My Father the Hero Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" Clint Eastwood & Meryl Streep * The Bridges of Madison County Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" * Jodi Foster in Nell Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Hampton Theatre Cinema Tel: 61274 61275 Will shortly present Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in a play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tubeishat	Sahil P. Nisham's Theatre Tel: 64055 PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155
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Experts, activists call for strong commitment to National Charter

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A two-day seminar on "The National Charter and democratic transformation in Jordan" closed yesterday with calls for reactivating the 1990 national document and establishing a special committee to ensure its implementation.

Intellectuals, leaders of political parties, former ministers and some among the most prominent personalities in Jordan's modern history expressed disappointment over the democratic achievements of the Kingdom and accused the past governments of having violated the National Charter.

"The charter was the result of a collective reconciliation effort exerted by all political and social forces and groups in Jordan, and, as such, must be reactivated and implemented in all its parts," former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat declared.

Dr. Obeidat, who chaired the 60-member specially-appointed Royal Commission in charge of drafting the National Charter, emphasised the role of this document in boosting Jordan's democratisation process and said that the main objective of the seminar was "to find and propose means to reactivate the charter in the country's political life."

The charter, which was

promulgated after over three decades of ban on political parties and followed the 1989 general elections, aimed at expediting the resumption of full parliamentary life and set the general guidelines and the institutional basis for the exercise of political pluralism.

The document, consisting of a historical introduction and eight sections, also laid the basis for comprehensive reforms in the national security, economic, cultural, educational and information sectors.

Many of the participants pointed out that, while the charter calls for and set up the guidelines for many laws and regulations necessary to the Kingdom's democratic advancement, only two laws derived from it.

Even if all political forces considered it as a common platform and a national source of reference, "the governments ignored it and only the law on political parties and the Press and Publications Law were promulgated according to the letter and the spirit of the charter," senator and former minister Ibrahim Izzeddine asserted.

Senator and former minister Mohammad Tarawneh stressed that the implementation of some parts of the charter, especially the one concerning economic reforms, is "now more necessary than ever."

"The charter was not

ignored by the past governments, but deliberately violated," former director of the Royal Cultural Centre and member of the Royal Commission for the National Charter Iyad Qattan stated.

He added that, paradoxically, the number of ministers in the past governments who were also former members of the Royal Commission was exceeded only by the number of violations of the Charter that their governments perpetrated.

Out of the 53 members still alive of the 60-member Royal Commission which wrote the charter, 17 were participating in the seminar, organised by the Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in cooperation with the Jordanian Society for the Enhancement of Democracy and Freedom.

Sunday's opening session, with the opening remarks delivered by Al Urdun Al Jadid Director Hani Hourani, Konrad Adenauer Foundation representative in Jordan Olaf Kongden and President of the National Society for the Enhancement of Democracy and Freedom Taher Masri, was followed by three sessions, focusing on the impact of the National Charter on Jordanian political life and its Arab and Islamic relations as envisaged in the Charter.

"No matter how named, a wide coalition under the slogan 'implement the National Charter' is necessary," said Issa Madanat, leader of the Progressive Democratic Unionist Party.

Speaking at the round table which closed the seminar, under the chairmanship of Dr. Obeidat, Mr. Masri, also a former prime minister and speaker of the Lower House, defended the charter against the attacks of those who define it obsolete and out of date.

To those who think that the charter should be buried, or at least amended because of its references to the "Zionist threat," Mr. Masri answered that "the Arab-Israeli conflict is not over, and that became even more apparent after the Likud's victory and the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister in Israel."

Lawyer and women activist Asma Khader said "the charter sets a minimum of democratic guarantees which can be exceeded, but must not be given up."

Pointing to the provisions envisaged by the charter and not yet fully implemented, especially with regard to women development and equality, Ms. Khader called for the creation of a "wide coalition of social and political forces, from which government officials are excluded, to sustain the implementation of the Charter."

"No matter how named, a wide coalition under the slogan 'implement the National Charter' is necessary," said Issa Madanat, leader of the Progressive Democratic Unionist Party.

Peres opens new Knesset with appeal to pursue peace process

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AFP) — Outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres Monday called on Israeli deputies to pursue the peace process in an address to the inaugural session of the country's newly elected parliament.

"I want to believe that the peace process which we have started will continue and yield results," said Mr. Peres, who at 72 opened the Knesset session in his capacity as the legislature's oldest member. "I am convinced that above and beyond differences of opinion, concern for the peace, security and welfare of the state of Israel unites all of us," he said.

"Zionism is on the verge of its greatest victory, the victory of peace. This is possible, this is within reach and if we will (realise) it, it is no dream," he declared before the 120 oew members of the parliament cited their oath of office and the Knesset was adjourned until Tuesday.

Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu had hoped to present his right-wing coalition government at Monday's Knesset session. But his spokesman said the government would not be put forward until Tuesday, although Mr. Netanyahu had earlier in the day reached coalition agreements with enough parties to ensure his administration a 66-seat Knesset majority.

Mr. Peres acknowledged that the outgoing legisla-



Outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres (right) with successor Benjamin Netanyahu at Monday's opening of the new Knesset (Reuters photo)

ture, which launched the Palestinian self-rule process, was "among the most stormy and decisive in the history of the state."

"It is unavoidable that the 14th Knesset will also be called upon to make fateful and historic decisions," he said.

Referring to the issue of Israel's security which was used successfully by Mr. Netanyahu to defeat him in the May 29 elections, Mr. Peres acknowledged that "our security problems are serious." "But we must not become alienated from the voices which break forth here and there from among the Arab peoples, which take a sober and realistic view of Israeli-Arab relations and which demand the recognition of Israel's existence."

"We must encourage any possible contact with those

COLUMN

Jagger may send son to elite British school

LONDON (R) — Rolling Stone Mick Jagger, the wild man of British rock music in the 1960s, is considering sending his son to Eton, one of Britain's most exclusive private schools. The Daily Telegraph said Monday that Jagger and his American model wife Jerry Hall visited the school last week. Its pupils include future king Prince William, son of heir to the throne Prince Charles and his estranged wife Princess Diana. Jagger's son James is 11 years old and has been educated by private tutors on the Caribbean island of Mustique, where the couple have a home. If accepted, he could start at Eton in September 1997. Eton declined to comment on the possibility of Jagger's son gaining a place at the school. But one teacher was quoted by the telegraph as saying: "One of the things which makes the school so special is that it contains boys from all sorts of social and ethnic backgrounds."

'Scientist's vaccine' turns out to be cocaine

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — Police found a small amount of cocaine in what was labeled as vaccine being shipped to Europe for a well-known Colombian scientist, a local radio network reported Sunday. Caracol said police discovered about 18 ounces (520 grammes) of cocaine hidden in 32 vials in a box being sent by courier on a flight to Frankfurt, Germany, from the international airport. The network said the box was supposedly a donation by the Colombian Red Cross to German health authorities on behalf of Manuel Elkin Patarroyo, known for his groundbreaking vaccine against malaria. It said they suspected drug traffickers used Dr. Patarroyo's name to evade detection by customs and did not believe he had anything to do with the shipment. Police opened the box before it was put on the flight because they found it suspicious, the network said. Airport police were not immediately available for comment. Dr. Patarroyo could not be reached for comment.

Chinese imperial seal found after theft

BEIJING (AFP) — A large seal that belonged to a Chinese empress of the sixth century has been recovered three years after it was stolen by grave robbers, a report said Monday. The one-kilogramme (2.2-pound) seal, which belonged to Empress Wudi of the Northern Zhou Dynasty and dates back 1,400 years, was taken by grave robbers in September 1993. The relic is said to be the earliest seal belonging to a Chinese empress ever discovered. The Xinhua News Agency said. The seal, inscribed with the empress's name, was buried with her and Emperor Wudi in a tomb in Xianyang city near the capital of Shaanxi province, Xian. The seal was recovered after a suspect arrested in connection with the original robbery identified the man who had been hiding the relic for the past three years. Last week, the man turned himself in to police and handed over the seal. Xinhua said. It was unclear if other relics stolen during the robbery — including the emperor's seal — had also been recovered. Such relics are considered crucial to studies of the Southern and Northern dynasties (420-581) — an era when China was divided as a result of wars between northern tribes and residents in the central plains.

Arafat loyalist, 5 others killed in blast near 'Ain Al Hilweh camp

SIDON (Agencies) — A commander in Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction was among six Palestinians killed Monday when an arms cache exploded during a blaze at his home in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp.

The fire in the basement of Nabil Khattab's two-storey house in the 'Ain Al Hilweh camp ignited gas cylinders as well as ammunition and explosives stored there causing a series of blasts, which ripped through the house also injuring at least 16 people, they added.

Mr. Khattab's wife raised the fire alarm at 8:00 a.m. (0500 GMT), and minutes later several massive explosions rocked the area claiming casualties among groups of young people running towards the blazing house with buckets of water.

A woman and child were among those killed in the blast in the northern area of the camp which houses 70,000 refugees in a suburb of the southern Lebanese city of Sidon, Palestinian sources said.

They added that the dis-

figured body of explosives expert Khattab had been found, but his wife had only been very slightly hurt. Palestinian sources said that Mr. Khattab had kept explosives on the first floor of his house and they could have ignited accidentally. They added there had not been any tensions lately between the various Palestinian factions in the camp.

Those loyal to Mr. Arafat are in the minority in the camp.

The camp is led by Munir Magdah, who broke away from Fateh and is opposed to the autonomy accords struck with Israel. His men have claimed several anti-Israeli operations in southern Lebanon.

The house was flattened and four neighbouring houses were damaged. Windows were blown out in buildings within a radius of 500 metres and the blasts could be heard in the centre of Sidon.

As rescue teams were desperately trying to dig out any survivors from under the rubble, Fateh fighters arrived to retrieve cases of undamaged ammunition and explosives, he added.

All roads leading to the Barakats district were closed to traffic and the area was sealed off, he said.

Under the terms of a deal reached with the Lebanese authorities in 1991, the Palestinians are allowed to keep light arms in the camps where security is run by committees made up of the different Palestinian factions.

At the end of the Lebanese civil war all the conflicting militias, with the exception of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, were disarmed although the Palestinians, considered to be the biggest losers among the combatants, obtained a concession to hold on to their small arms.

They were also allowed to retain control of the 12 refugee camps in southern Lebanon where the Lebanese police and army never risk going.

Since the signing of the Oslo autonomy accords between the Palestinians and Israel in 1993, the camps have been plagued by conflict between supporters and opponents of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.



Palestinian guerrillas loyal to PLO leader Yasser Arafat's Fateh group inspect the damage of a building caused after an explosion on Monday just outside 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp, the largest Palestinian camp in Lebanon, near the southern port city of Sidon (Reuters photo)

Palestinian detained in killing of Israeli policeman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — Israeli troops on Monday arrested a Palestinian suspect in the killing of an Israeli policeman in a West Bank town store and imposed a curfew on the Arab village where the shooting occurred.

A gunman opened fire Sunday, fatally wounding Meir Alouche, 40, as he was shopping with his wife and year-old son in a toy store in the village of Bidya near the Jewish settlement of Ariel.

Alouche was to be buried Monday. His wife Nitza was recovering from a gunshot wound to the back and chest and the child, Chai, was unharmed, Israel Radio reported.

Israeli security sources confirmed Israel Radio reports that said one suspect was detained. The sources said they were operating on the assumption that the suspect acted on his own initiative because the policeman had stopped at the store on a whim.

They declined to give further details, and the army spokesman refused comment. The attack, the second

in eight days, follows the victory of hardline candidate Benjamin Netanyahu in the May 29 elections for prime minister.

No group has claimed responsibility for either attack, although security officials said they suspect both were carried out by Palestinian militants.

The army put the area under full curfew Sunday and began searching the village for suspects. Roadblocks were set up at junctions around Arab villages in the area and cars were being checked, the Palestinian daily Al Ayam reported. The village of Bidya is in an area of the West Bank where Israel retains final say on security issues. Israeli troops kept Palestinian police in the area from entering the village to investigate the attack.

Israel's West Bank commander, Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan said Sunday that the curfew, which kept stores in Bidya closed and residents at home, was to show that "after an incident of this sort business will not go on as usual."

Demonstrators demand release of activist Sarraj

AL BIREH (Agencies) — A

small group of demonstrators on Monday demanded the immediate release of a leading human rights activist held in a Palestinian jail.

A Palestinian security agent ordered the demonstrators outside the Al Bireh municipality to disperse, claiming they did not have the required permission to hold a protest. He said the orders came from Brigadier General Ziyad Orief, the area's police chief.

The group, made up of about 25 representatives of Palestinian non-governmental organisations, ignored the order and continued their one-hour sit-in to protest the arrest of Eyad Sarraj, a leading critic of Yasser Arafat who was detained 11 days ago.

"The worst thing that can happen to us as a people is to be afraid," said Hanan Ashrawi, a human rights watchdog who was appointed to Mr. Arafat's cabinet on Friday. "We need to look into all the steps that were taken against Dr. Sarraj," she added.

On Thursday, a magistrate's court in Gaza City ordered Dr. Sarraj, 53, released on bail on drug possession charges. But on the same day, the state security court ordered him held for 15 days on charges he assaulted a police officer.

His lawyers argue that assaulting a police officer comes under criminal law, not state security. On Sunday, the Palestinian high court gave the attorney-general's office five days to justify Dr. Sarraj's detention.

Dr. Sarraj, a 53-year-old psychologist who also heads the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, has denied attacking a policeman and claims police planted 95 grammes of hashish in his office.

His lawyer, Raji Sourani, said both the assault and the drug charges apparently were designed to silence his client, who has criticised Mr. Arafat's rule as corrupt and autocratic.

The Cairo-based Union of Arab Lawyers on Monday appealed to Mr. Arafat to free Dr. Sarraj.

Indicted Bosnian Serb freed as victim of mistaken identity

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — The international war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on Monday freed an indicted Bosnian Serb and dropped all charges against him, saying he was a victim of mistaken identity.

The man, Goran Lajic, was arrested on March 18 in southern Germany and had been held in a United Nations prison at Scheveningen near here since May 13.

All charges were immediately dropped against him, but the indictment of another Bosnian Serb with the same name stands, the tribunal said.

Mr. Lajic, 28, was arrested at Amberg, near Nuremberg, after German police received notification of his name and date of birth from tribunal, but he told the tribunal as he was released: "I was not worried because I knew I was innocent."

He recalled that he told German police "I never set foot in Keraterm," the prisoner-of-war camp in northwest Bosnia where he was alleged to have committed war crimes.

Mr. Lajic said he had known for several months that another man with the same name was wanted as a suspected war criminal.

He reminded the presiding French judge, Claude Jorda, that he had deserted from the Bosnian Serb army in 1994 because he did not wish to wage war on people with whom he had no quarrel.

The U.S. Supreme Court has allowed women raped and tortured in the former Yugoslavia to sue Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in the United States for crimes against humanity.

The court, without comment, turned down on Monday Mr. Karadzic's argu-

ment that he cannot be sued here because he is a private citizen, not a government official, and because none of the alleged offenses occurred in the United States.

The two class-action lawsuits against Mr. Karadzic were filed by human rights groups in 1991 on behalf of thousands of Bosnian Muslim and Croatian women. He is accused of ordering a campaign of murder, rape and other forms of torture to destroy non-Serbian people.

The case is based on a 200-year-old United States law allowing foreign citizens to sue foreign officials and citizens for violating the law of nations. Mr. Karadzic, the Serbs' political leader, also has been indicted on charges of genocide and war crimes by the United Nations tribunal based in The Hague. He has not been arrested on those charges, however.